



ISSUE 40

WINTER 1994

Travelling the Jundland Wastes...

A Journey Through Star Wars Fandom's Golden Age

Maggie Nowakowska

With the publication of Issue 8, *Jundland Wastes* entered its high middle age. Writers and readers of LoCs were familiar with each other. Overwhelming wonder at the SW universe had eased into knowledge willing to flex its assumptions. No longer considered a "fringe fandom", tagging along after the ST phenomena, SW fandom was ready for full battle over the usual trivia, plot developments and characterization, and -- more important -- over whose definition of SW and SW fandom would prevail.

As before, I will preface opinion with IMO and/or place editorial comment/personal opinions in italics. Reading over Part One, I see assumptions and declarations that I wish I could have "double emphasized" as opinions and emotional reactions that still linger after all this time. I shall attempt to be more objective this time around -- but since rereading some of the letters in the next few issues of JW still fires my temper, it will be difficult!

Jundland Wastes, Issue 8, March 1982

As of March 1982, 40 SW fanzines are listed in JW as available or coming soon, while 46 are in the planning stages. Twenty-five list as Out of Print. Holding to its 20 page length norm, JW#8 includes three zine reviews (*Facets 7/8, Multiverse, and Crossed Sabers*), 21 letters, one article and two story critiques.

In the article, "The Hero's Hero", Jean Stevenson explores the heroes in three George Lucas films (*American Graffiti*, SW, and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*) as they travel a mythic path from rebellion to the consequences of responsibility. Stevenson also examines the role of women in the films. She concludes that, although the hero traditionally seeks the heroine as reward, since Leia is both prize and a fellow path traveller in SW, a female character such as Leia represents someone one step beyond reward

who is the *hero* of the hero himself.

The first formal story critiques appear in this issue. The novella, "Satisfaction Guaranteed," by Paula Block and Judi Hendricks, is examined, an especially welcome exploration because complaints about the *Pegasus 5* (wherein the story appeared) review continue in this issue. Content -- supposed gratuitous violence, sexuality, and plot logic -- are the main points of contention here because this story (and others by the same authors) are exceptionally well-written.

The relevance of blood, sex and incredible plots in any fannish universe has been debated since the early days of ST fanzines. IMO, an underlying factor in the controversy is the American cultural myth that women are naturally less violent and more delicate in their sexual interests. Although by the days of SW, fanlit had proved many of those assumptions questionable at the least, the influx of new and naive fans -- and of fans determined to support the myth -- kept the argument alive. Currently, fandom is no longer surprised by the varieties of interests among female fans, but there is little mixing among those at either extreme of the question.

The story, "Lifeline", a successful melding of vampire legends and the SW universe, by popular author Anne Zeek is also critiqued.

In the letters is found an emphasis on SW's roots in Eastern, specifically Japanese, cinematic traditions, with the reminder that Western literary sources do not stand alone as references for myth and fairy tales. Akira Kurosawa's films are noted, especially *Hidden Fortress* and the *Yojimo/Sanjuro* films. The suggestion that fanlit should reflect multifaceted cultural sources is made.

One LoC asks if fans have to accept Lucas' definition of characters (i.e., Darth Vader as evil). Certainly, the writer observes, those who have written to explain that the Empire has understandable, defendable goals, and that the Empire is morally superior to the Alliance, do not agree with Lucas' assessment! Other discussion explores the political role of the Alliance, suggesting goals and behaviors not necessarily explicit in the movies.

The treatment of Lando Calrissian as a tragic figure comes up in this issue, as does the possibility that Luke is a pawn facing a trap in ROTJ.

Han's forceful abilities, pro and con, remain a hot topic of conversation. The main arguments seem to be: Pro -- the evidence of his skills in tracking, flying and playing "hunches" in TESB; Con -- not only does his disbelief get in the way, but isn't it nice to have someone who isn't specially gifted and yet a hero nonetheless?

The trouble brewing between Luke and Han fans surfaces in this issue. Although suggestions of conflict have percolated through fandom since *Alderaan's* days, the plot and characters developed in TESB only emphasize the disagreements. In Part One of this article, I dwelt on a letter

(in issue 7) that would be the catalyst for this subject in JW. In that letter, amid a long discussion on Han as sidekick rather than hero of the SW Saga and reasons why so many fans seem so extraordinarily drawn to him, the writer stated, "Han seems a much more complex character [than Luke] ... easier to write with his checkered past and early ambiguous role in the rebellion" and "...aside from the obvious one of physical attraction, most SW fans seem to be rather fond of Harrison Ford, certainly fonder than they are of Mark Hamill." The LoC went on to propose that Luke's potential made him a far more complex character than Han, and offered some literary comparisons for Han's role in the Saga.

Response in JW#8 comes from a writer who is to become known for her lengthy, detailed, sharply dogmatic replies to any LoC that describes a SW or a Han Solo unlike the writer's conception. First comes the argument that says "I just can't believe" (see discussion of fannish argument types in Part One) such a response to Han "...mere scant pages after Anne Zeek's carefully reasoned and thoroughly supported arguments [in her "Button, Button" article]." Then the writer claims that the first LoC has accused those who like Han as "thinking with a part of their anatomy considerably lower than their craniums." Ultimately, the first letter's arguments are rejected as being the prejudices of a "Luke fan" who thinks there "must be only one hero" in SW.

I have gone into detail on this disagreement because a pattern of LoC response that would continue past the life of JW was established with this first exchange. I remember being amazed by the rebuttal letter. From the evidence presented in the response letter, one would assume that the first was a flagrant and rude attack. I looked up the first LoC. I was astounded by the way the 2nd LoC misrepresented what had been said, by the way the 2nd letter's defensive attitude implied an attack by the 1st, and by the acceptance of another writer's speculation ["Button, Button"] as unassailable doctrine. This, unfortunately, was only the first round of the battle. In JW#9 and subsequent issues, other fans followed the example set in the 2nd LoC. JW readers who liked both characters felt obliged to defend Skywalker, which left them open to accusations based on further misquotes. Any description of Han Solo that differed from the standards of what developed into a small but loquacious group of people was taken as an attack on Han Solo; anyone who disagreed with those standards stood accused of hating Han or worse of being a "Luke fan", a status which presumed being anti-Han; finally, any positive description of Luke was taken as clear evidence that the writer disregarded Solo completely.

In the realm of zine material, a JW8 LoC offers advice on illustration with the plea for action illos, not just portraits of the characters. More opinions are exchanged on the

subject of bad editors/publishers; and yet another presentation argues that the label "amateur" does not necessarily mean "substandard."

There is more exploration of cliquishness in fandom. One LoC points out that, of course, active fans get named more often in letterzines and fannish conversation: activity grants higher visibility and, let's face it, the more you do, the more people you know.

Issue 9, May 1982 (5th anniversary of SW's release)

Issue 9 has 22 pages and 20 letters, article, rebuttals by reviewers, and 3 zine reviews (*Fanzine Index*, *Fantasy Flight* and *The Whills*).

"Han and Leia in Fan Fiction, or 'Do You Think a Princess and a Guy Like Me...?'" is an article by Sherry Magee exploring the relationship between Han and Leia as seen by fan writers. Immediately after ANH, says Magee, the answer to the title's question was for the most part, a resounding "No!" Although a few writers explored the possibility, it was not until the release of TESB that fanlit took the subject on in earnest. Magee divides these stories into the following categories: "Prelude tales", before the events of ANH, "As the Reel Turns", filler stories not shown in the films, "The Search for Solo", picking up after TESB and often exploring Leia's reaction to carbonated Solo, and "After the ????", post-ROTJ stories asking will Han and Leia stay together, will they marry, how will their relationship affect her political career and his chosen way of life?

In this issue, those writers and editors who have been reviewed talk back. Jonas Soderblod, editor of *The Dark Lord* out of Sweden, takes issue with his zine's review, with a response from the reviewer immediately following; and the writers of "Satisfaction Guaranteed" rebut complaints about presumed factual errors in the reviews and critiques of their work.

Just what is SW canon? Movies are 1st source material, is argued by most LoCs in JW9, with published material considered secondary. Unfortunately for consensus, many people cannot agree on exactly what was said in/by the movie because of (according to one LoC): (1) meanings that exist beyond artistic intent, (2) interpretations that vary because of the differences in understood language, and (3) implied behavior that not everyone perceives.

Disagreement over the morality of the revolt continues from last issue. Definitions of revolution and rebellion are exchanged while more than one letter asks just what is moral behavior on the part of a government or political party?

Many writers respond to last issue's discussion of artists' styles. There are strong reactions to types of presentation;

portraiture is defended on a number of levels with a passionate argument that portraiture is definitely what fans want and therefore is what they'll get from zine eds and artists who want to be able to sell their material.

Fanwriting pastiche is addressed by one LoC. Regarding characterization, another LoC asks: (1) How much validity is there to an interpretation of a character that is contrary to the original concept of the author? and (2) Why is it so difficult to make an essentially evil character viable, and why does no one want to even try? That Leia and Vader are the most complex characters in the Saga is agreed to by many, while questions regarding the claim of Luke's growing maturity and/or the degree of his fault (in not staying with Yoda, for example) pick up steam with this issue. As for why he's not as popular as Han, one LoC offers the opinion that Luke is everyone's little brother, therefore he is simply not as sexy as Solo.

Speaking of the Han/Luke issue: The writer of the 1st LoC points out that actually she prefers Leia to either Luke or Han, which, IMO, ought to have ended the controversy. However, it is clear from other letters in this issue that some fans have accepted the translations offered by the 2nd LoC of what was said originally. Indignation over the 1st LoCs "insults" is high. Why does fandom dislike Han so much? they cry. While there are letters that respond in astonishment and anger to the inaccurate interpretations, the trouble stirred up by the 2nd LoC is *not* going to go away.

Other differences among fan and their reactions to SW and SW fanlit are summarized by a new fan: "...[alternate series which] leave the starry-eyed idealism of the films to explore the 'real world' implications of a living rebellion -- torn by internal dissension, bred in suspicion, sullied by expediency, possessed of intolerance and self-righteousness and a 'with us or against us' attitude ... These universes are fascinating, but while you enjoy, please make the distinction from Lucas' [universe]. Most of us were drawn to the warmth and wish-fulfillment of SW's innate gaiety and *fantasy*. Surely there's room for both."

The differences as stated above were almost too wide to span. Fans who wanted the fantasy, the preception of fairy tales as innocent and optimistic heroic tales found little ground in common with fans who interpreted the realm of fairy and folk tales differently, or who looked at SW with a more worldly eye, or who saw troublesome struggles in the efforts/personalities of the main characters.

"SW as ideal world" vs. "SW as reflection of the real world" unfortunately developed aspects similar to the Han/Luke controversy. The fannish universe referred to above was my SW universe, *ThousandWorlds*, an attempt to take the ANH universe and make a science fiction story out of it. I considered the stories optimistic; however, many people found TW depressing. That difference of opinion didn't bother me (too much!), but soon my stories were used

as evidence that I had deliberately rejected the Saga as filmed, especially TESB, which had become the measure of the ideal SW universe. The problems arose when those fans who started out as "Hanatics", but who drew a more realistic smuggler and outlaw, were labeled Han-haters, and those fans who did not agree with certain romantic perceptions post-TESB were accused of resenting that film. Again, the acrimony could have been ignored, but values of fair discussion and open minds still existed and so LoCs were written in answer to accusations by people who would accept only one possible resolution: agreement with the accuser and recantation of previously-held "erroneous" ideas.

Issue 10, July? 1982

Over 50 zines are now available or planned. There are no articles in this issue, but 7 fanzines are reviewed, including *Guardian* 4, *Starwings* 1 (2 opinions), *Twin Suns* 3, *Knight of Shadows*, *The Whills* (2 opinions), *Pawn of Prophecy* (non-SW), and *Lost Jedis* 2.

Next installment of the Han/Luke issue: The number of Han vs. Luke comments/claims increases with the response to the 1st and 2nd LoCs. Finding fault with Skywalker begins in earnest. Foremost among the complaints about Luke is that he is irresponsible. The vehemence of the growing battle is evident as one LoC makes the acerbic observation that the reaction of many Han fans "smacks of idolatry."

Fandom would have been better served had the irrational reactions been ignored. There was no group of "Han-haters", nor any proselytizing group of "Luke fans" -- at least not until now. Those who had become so dogmatic with their interpretations of Han Solo's character and role soon were said to be part of the "Church of Ford", a sarcastic if appropriate appellation which only inspired the Ford faithful to claim that their efforts were necessary to defend Han's reputation against the "Cathedral of Luke". For me, the idiocy of the arguments -- and the destructive aspect -- was revealed when the editor who had published my stories on the life and times of Han Solo, and who had known me since my own "Hanatic [Han-fanatic]" days, called to say that she had received a LoC from a fan who wanted to know why Maggie "hated" Han -- presumably because the Han Solo I presented in my stories was not the saint the "Church of Ford" insisted upon. All those pages of text had come to naught; for the rest of the time that the CoF participated in SW letterzines, I was known as -- horror of horrors -- a "Luke lover."

Still, as I reread JW for this article, I was pleased to see that more people than I remembered had taken the angry writers to task. It was the volume of the clever debate

arguments as much as the strident tone and ad hominum attacks that threatened fandom's social balance, not fandom's lack of response. The offensive letters, much the worse for SW fandom, continued well past the days of JW and into the early years of the letterzine to follow, *Southern Enclave*. Many, many people were intimidated. To this day, we live with a legacy of hesitation.

Twenty-one letters fill the rest of the zine. Contemporary fan standards, rather than "English class" or formal review qualifications, are held up as a more practical method of determining fanzine worth in reviews. The controversy over pseudonyms in reviews continues: does the anonymous review provide for more honest opinion, or rather allow too much opportunity for attack? As for professional SW writing, there are no end to the complaints, especially about *Splinter in the Mind's Eye*, a book almost universally disliked. The Han Solo books receive mixed reviews.

A new area of discussion is opened by a LoC that suggests that Luke is presented as the Hanged Man as in Tarot symbology when he hangs one-legged beneath Bespin in TESB.

Issue 11, September 1982

Although the number of pages and letters in JW#11 remains constant, evidence of increased action in other areas of fandom is clear in September's classified ads. The number of zines available, coming and planned now number 76. Again, a large number of fanzines are reviewed: *Kessel Run* 2, *Thunderbolt*, *Visions*, *Imperial Entanglements*, *Dark Lord* (U.S. version), and *Storms* 2.

"Brin's Lovers" is a story critique that explores the work of Marcia Brin, whose stories exemplify the light-hearted and sentimental school of fanfic. The focus here is on the relationship between Han and Leia, using easy humor and idealized characterizations. An aspect of the controversy over Han Solo's character comes up in the reviewer's description of Brin's Solo: "...and a Han straight out of TESB (meaning, not the overly-macho, uneducated slob so often fan-written after ANH)." The reviewer says, "...there are lots of socially-significant, heavy stories in fanfic. You read those; I'll curl up with a story by Marcia."

The 20 letters are fairly well divided between SW universe subjects and fannish universe subjects. Just how does one define evil? asks a number of LoCs, with more than one suggesting that people stop comparing the Empire to the Nazis, mostly because such a comparison is an "easy out." A definition of piracy is called for, with the claim that Han is not a pirate, just a smuggler *as seen on the screen*.

Han/Luke update: Complaint is made that Han's character is incorrectly polished up by many fans. Literary

comparisons continue to be made, this time comparing Han to Aragorn in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. Luke's faults warrant more discussion, with complaints that he is too quick to judge people and situations; that he shows Yoda too little respect/ too much respect; that he simply does not show enough real evidence (as does Han in his talent in flying the *Falcon*) of Jedi potential.

On the fannish side of the house, complaints of unfulfilled zine orders are heard. The question of cliques is still active and some discussion of power moves within the fannish community is held. Again, there are complaints that the same names show up in JW and other fannish publications/ activities. Regarding rewarding fannish endeavors, the suggestion is made to create a special SW fanlit award, to be presented by JW.

On the subject of reviews, one LoC observes that reviews go bad when personal views intrude. Someone suggests a moratorium on reviews until some of these issues are resolved.

Issue 12, December 1982

By December, the number of zines in the classified section has increased to nearly 85. The reviews are a bit different this issue. Included are an overview of the *VHF Tapes*, a series of filks by Martie Benedict, centering on either Han Solo or other Harrison Ford movie characters; a look at the *SW Life Day Special*, aired on American TV in fall of 1978; and an examination of the zine, *Jedi Quarterly*.

This time the story critique is of Anne Zeek's SW stories, a series of romantically dark tales based on developments in TESB. In Zeek's powerfully-written extrapolations, Han and Leia's continuing relationship is assumed, Luke falls to the lure of power, and there is not guarantee that characters will live. Criticism of Zeek's bleak outlook is countered by this reviewer with the observation that Zeek is always fair to her characters, if not kind, and that there is always some flame of hope left burning, even if only on a philosophical level.

Notes on the ROTJ trailer lead off the LoCs. Some etymology is offered by one writer who points out that the English name "George" means "farmer" in Greek, with a literal translation of "roots" or "earth walker." Conflicting definitions of piracy are offered.

Rebuttals to the Imperial claims show up, as well as continued Imperial defense, especially the claim that what we are seeing is a civil war, not a rebellion. Along these lines, one LoC protests that Vader is not so interesting a character because he has no conflicts, no turmoil over his decision to be one of the bad guys.

Han/Luke uproar: It is soon to be my turn to have a LoC suffer the same fate as the "1st LoC" mentioned earlier. Aware of the ease with which one stood open to

attack, I very carefully word my JW12 LoC which explores Han's personality as, possibly, one that reflects the lives and interests and judgments of friends. I couch my paragraphs with "if" and words like "you could" and "maybe", and refer to the Brian Daley series on Han Solo's younger days only for those who include the books in their SW history. I am quite happy that my efforts to clearly present my speculations as just that -- possibilities -- are so obvious. As Obi-Wan will say in ROTJ, *I was wrong*.

The problem of reviews will not die, with more complaints of/disagreements with recent reviews are registered. One writer in particular is incensed by a reviewer who complained that one of her stories, which revolved around Han solving a planetary monetary problem with a calculator and businessman's wits, was unrealistic and reflected a blindness to reality based on inordinate affection for Captain Solo. Since this was a signed review, the reviewer is accused of prejudice because she is a "known" Luke-fan. *Again, I mention this particular instance because it has become just one of many such judgments aired in JW. From the days when reviewers were taken to task for demanding too high a literary standard, some in fandom have come to claim that stories can only be fairly reviewed by those who share the writers' point of view. Presumption of intended objectivity is no longer assumed.*

Problems with fanzine nonfulfillment continue to be announced. One LoC tries to ease the shock/dismay/denials of such troubles with the reminder that all fandoms, be they in the realms of music, hobbies, or whatever, act like any other human group. Politics and infighting will occur always; continued expression of shock simply defers confronting specific problems, and denial simply continues the trouble. *Relax, we're only human*, this LoC seems to say. *Let's get back to discussing SW.*

And, with much encouragement from readers, Pat Nussman announces the establishment of the JW awards.

Issue 13, March 1983

Two months before ROTJ is released and the number of zines noted tops 100. Zines reviewed are *Legends of Light*, *Flip of a Coin*, *Skywalker* 6 (2 reviews), *Docking Bay* 3, and *Facets* 9/10.

An article by the husband of a Han-fan, "They Told Me I Had a Ford in My Future", describes what it is like to be married to someone who is madly in love with a character as played by a specific actor.

Color symbolism, specifically the use of black and white in the Saga, is a new subject brought up in the LoC section. The Imperial debate continues as the destruction of Alderaan is justified as an understandable means to stop a troublesome and violent rebellion.

The upcoming release of ROTJ inspires a number of subjects, including the implications of the name change from *Revenge vs. Return*. The trailer appearance of Jim Henson's puppetry in ROTJ is met with mixed opinions. Yoda was difficult for many people to accept at face value; there is fear that an over-reliance on puppetry will affect the believability of the Saga for fans who are overly familiar with the *Sesame Street* muppets and *The Muppet Show*.

Leia reenters the discussion as one LoC points out that no one "gets" Leia; rather, she chooses which man she wants. More opinions on Organa as the Other are given.

Attacks on "Han haters" expand in this issue to declare that those who so hate Han also hate TESB because that movie so clearly demonstrates and supports every claim made by those who perceive the truth of Han's status.

And, although there is supportive response to my speculations on Han last issue, there is also my very own "2nd LoC", complete with misrepresentations that will be parroted in issues to come and the accusation that I have attempted to impose my universe's interpretation of Han upon the filmed Han and the rest of fandom. I can now personally report how such an attack feels -- for the response is written as if I were a defendant in a court, facing an aggressive attorney for the other side, i.e., "And then, Maggie, you said" and "Then Maggie states that". I can understand now why readers who are more shy, more hesitant with their opinions than the more brazen among us, have begun to hold back, and can see how the emotional response to such an accusatory rebuttal only feeds the miscommunications that kill fandoms. *I was cross-eyed with anger seven years ago when I read the LoC accusing me of what I had not done or said. Paying no attention to the actual points of argument made, I fired off an angry letter defending all the LoCers who had been so abused. That the letter did not get printed kept it from feeding the fire; enough others did appear to keep the flame alive. Years later, I find my emotions engaged once again and my only consolation is knowing that, if such a darkside maneuver were tried again in fandom, I would call it out for what it was right away.*

Or, at least I hope I would.

One LoC asks if there should be art reviews, while on the same general subject, someone points out that all reviews have PoV, and reminds readers that you just have to judge accordingly.

Issue 14, May 1983

The issue of JW that coincides with the release of ROTJ makes note of 101 fanzines available, coming or planned. 32 are announced as Out of Print.

Four zines, *A Different Light Falls*, *Guardian 5* (a novel called "Stormbrother"), *Legends of Light 1*, and *The Return* are reviewed in this issue, as well as *Skywalking*, a biography of George Lucas.

For this issue the 20 letters concentrate mostly on purely SW issues. The question, "Will ROTJ end fandom with the last of the Sage?" looms large. When all the unknowns are known, will interest wane?

Specific ROTJ issues this issue include more complaints about the extensive use of muppets. Also, speculations remain high over the questions of just *who* is returning?

General SW discussion continues amid the ROTJ anticipation. What does the Alliance symbol mean? Continuing the discussion of just what Han does with the *Falcon*, one LoC reminds everyone that drugs are not the only item historically smuggled; Han might smuggle medical supplies or innocuous marketable items unfairly legislated against by the Empire or local governments. More Imperial apologists appear.

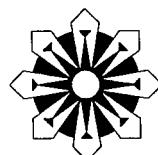
Rules for alternate fannish universes are discussed, and the *Lord of the Rings* and SW universes compared, with emphasis on character presentation.

The phrase "suspension of disbelief" is explored with one LoC reminding readers that the complete phrase is a "willing suspension of disbelief" and that "willing" is the most important word. [*That willing suspension of disbelief for the moment, which constitutes poetic faith.*" -- S. T. Coleridge] A writer cannot rest on the assumption that a reader will automatically disregard what a reader knows to be fact, but rather must earn the willingness of the reader to allow a suspension of disbelief by writing the story in a convincing manner.

And once again, we are reminded that "perfectly" good characters are boring.

The last installment of this series of articles on the classic SW letterzine, *Jundland Wastes*, will be devoted to issue #15/16 -- the last issue of JW -- wherein American fanzine fandom reacts to ROTJ with surprise, support and denial.

To be continued...



ECLECTICON REPORT

Judith Yuenger

Eclecticon was held in Newark, New Jersey on November 4-6. This was the only con that I have ever attended other than MediaWest. It certainly was vastly different! Much smaller and slower paced. I actually had time to sit and *talk* to people.

Since most people work on Friday, the con was not well attended that day. I checked in and went and got my badge (and ended up talking to the people manning registration for almost half an hour!). Went into the Dealer's Room and again spent more time talking than I did buying. The Dealer's Room was small but there was a really good variety of things available. The panels that day were small but the discussion was lively and interesting.

On Saturday and Sunday, the con was really hopping. The Dealer's Room was a lot more crowded and the panels were well attended. We also visited the Art Room. I was surprised at how much they displayed and the variety of items. Late in the afternoon, a group of us (Debbie Kittle, Sheryl Haven, Mary Jo Fox, Jennifer Moore, Ming Wathne and I) followed Barbara Anderson and Rebecca Carey to a local mall. They had a *Starlog* store there. Wow! Talk about a lot of stuff to buy! I could easily have bought \$100 worth of stuff in just a few minutes. On the way home, we stopped at Barbara's house so she could change clothes and we got to see her Harrison Ford collection. Poor Barbara! She's probably still cleaning up the slobber and drool!!! Back at the con we all attended an *Indy* party hosted by Jeannie Webster.

On Sunday, we went to the Art Auction (which was very well attended) and then made a pass or two through the Dealer's Room. Then, it was back to the room and before I knew it, we were having an impromptu SW party. The room was crammed with people talking about everything and anything. Deb Kittle had bought me those transforming heads so she dragged them out of my suitcase and was sitting on the floor showing everyone how they worked. It really was a funny picture. Imagine if you will -- Cheryl Pryor, Jennifer Moore, Mary Jo Fox, Arwen Rosenbaum, Amanda Palumbo, Barbara Anderson, Rebecca Carey and 2 girls whose names I've forgotten all sitting in a group around Deb Kittle and watching her play with toys!!!! I had an extension for the room until 3 PM and believe me, I practically had to throw everyone out at that time.

Kathy Agel and her staff deserve a pat on the back. They did a really nice job. The staff was friendly, courteous and went out of their way to insure that you had a good time. They had hall costume awards. Staff members giving out certificates and bejeweled ribbons for the best costumes. The Dealer's Room and the Art Room were well laid out so that there was plenty of room for buying and viewing. The panels were varied and easy to find. Everything ran very smoothly. The hotel staff also went out of their way to help make your stay pleasant. It was a fun weekend and I'm looking forward to attending again next year.

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Submissions received later than seven (7) days after deadline will not be published in the current issue.

SITH HAPPENS!

Did you ever hear the expression "Life is what happens when you're busy making plans"? Well, my new slogan is, "Life is what happens when you're busy making zines"!

Somewhere around the middle of August this year, Real Life took charge and ate me for breakfast! Hence the horrible lateness of this issue. Allow me to elaborate...

As many of you know, in January, I received a promotion to computer systems administrator at my job. I work for a mid-size and growing law firm in Dallas. When I was hired in June 1992, it was with the understanding that I would be considered for this position when it became available. I was extremely happy to have it come my way, since it was something I'd been working towards for about 15 years. I went into it knowing that it would be a hard and demanding job.

In February, we began interviewing vendors to install and configure a Novell computer network in our office. Those of you who work in offices likely know what I'm talking about -- an integrated system of computers known as a Local Area Network (LAN). Since we would be building ours from scratch, we had to start with only a general idea of what we wanted and go from there. It was August before we finally signed a contract and work began immediately. I plunged headfirst into not only working with the integrators in installing this system, but also learning system administration on it. I feel like I've gone back to college as a freshman with the expectation of ending up with a master's degree!

Actual hardware installation began in September and from that point my personal life became almost non-existent. I was routinely spending six days a week at the office and putting in as much overtime as I could manage.

However, I still had my daughter, Katy, to contend with in the evenings, as Randy had been working a second shift contract position since late April. Katy was tested on Labor Day for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and found very high on the scale, so we started her on Ritalin on September 19 (coincidentally the same day hardware install started at work!). I'm happy to report that the Ritalin has helped tremendously and her schoolwork has improved dramatically.

Meanwhile, as installation progressed, we also began intensive training of all our personnel on three new programs that would be running on the network. This included everyone from the managing partner down to the office runner. Computer expertise in these people ranged

from Know-It-All-Don't-Need-Training to How-Do-I-Turn-On-the-Computer, and from Eager-to-Learn to Refuse-To-Learn attitudes.

Once this was done, we began bringing people on-line and encountered a massive set of problems -- which we'd anticipated. We had techs on-site for days getting things worked out. Fortunately, by the first of November, things had smoothed out and problems had dwindled down to those primarily caused by operator error. I've finally been able to catch my breath and start attending to my personal life and the zines.

It dawned on me about Halloween that it was a full month past deadline for SE40 and I had done practically nothing on it! Praises to Judy Yuenger who helped me type the LoCs for this issue and to those who volunteered to help! I appreciate it more than I can say, ladies! However, as you can see, November rolled by and December started before I was able to get this issue finished up and in the mail!

Meanwhile, I was also trying to get *A Tremor in the Force* #8 finished up and printed. I had intended to have it out by Thanksgiving, but it, too, will be out in December. My apologies to all concerned for the lateness of the zines and I hope you understand. For those of you who have asked, no, I don't intend to stop doing either zine. I just mentioned to some people that I might take a break and catch my breath. But I've already started accepting stories for TF#9, although I don't expect it to see daylight before MWC 1996!

A special note here about something new at Falcon Press:

I had a second phone line installed at home just before Thanksgiving. This is strictly for my computer and will serve as my fax line. I don't have a fax machine, *per se*, installed, but my computer has a great fax program and I will make this available on Fridays if you would like to fax me something. The number is:

(214) 613-4762

Remember, this number will only be good on Fridays for Faxes. There is no telephone hooked up to it, so don't try to call expecting to talk to someone. And the fax program will only be running on Fridays! I'll look forward to hearing from you!

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and that 1995 will bring every good thing your way! Best wishes to all my "fannish family"!

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Forces of the Empire
c/o Pat Grant
2343 N. Cedar St., Apt. A,
Holt, MI 48842

The Moons of Yavin
19 Park Avenue
Bottesford, Scunthorpe
South Humberside DN17 2PB
England

OUR SYMPATHIES TO...

Marti Schuller on the death of her father from cancer in November.

Judy Yuenger, whose daughter lost the baby she was carrying, and who the same day had to have her 32-year-old Arabian, "G", put to sleep.

NOTICE

We are looking for artists to submit artwork for *Forces of the Empire*. We are looking for the following: (1) cover artwork for our newsletter, (2) artwork for certificates to be handed out at MWC during the Friday night Dance party, and (3) illustrators for our club zine, *Tales from the Cantina*, which does spotlight club personas but artists

would be given detailed descriptions of the characters. You do *not* have to be a member of F.O.E. to send in submissions, and artists will receive recognition, as well as copies of any newsletter or zine in which your artwork appears. For the newsletter, we are looking for mainstream SW artwork, *anything which portrays the spirit of SW*, preferably something showing action or which will bring out emotion of some sort. We are looking for artwork of zine-cover quality, although it only covers a space of 5-1/4" x 5-1/4". For the certificates, we are looking for something like the certificate Judy hands out for the Star Awards. I will discuss the details with the chosen artist. Interested artists should submit artwork (or samples if you prefer) as soon as possible. Please send top quality copies. Do not trust the Post Awful with your originals. Send to: Pat Grant, 2343 N. Cedar St., Apt. A, Holt, MI 48842.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

From: Cheree Cargill

If you haven't seen it already, I urge everyone to run out and get the SW Screen Saver for Windows. After searching for it all summer, I finally found it at CompUSA for \$29.99. You must have a color SVGA monitor with at least 256 colors in order for it to run and at least 4 MB of RAM. A Sound Blaster is recommended but it sounds just fine for the most part on my computer, which doesn't have that. There are several modules including "stolen blueprints" of all the Alliance and Imperial ships, screen posters, scrolling text that you can either write yourself or use the ANH opening crawl, Han and Chewie going to lightspeed in the *Falcon*, a space battle, Vader "having a word with you", Obi-Wan and Vader having a lightsaber duel (with sound effects), a run down the Death Star trench, and lots more.

The most interesting are the character biographies from which I've learned a *lot* of extremely fascinating facts about the various characters in ANH that cleared up a lot of misconceptions I'd built up over the years. Most fun module is the Jawas. This one has Jawas, droids, sandpeople, Boba Fett, stormtroopers and even a bantha strolling and running across the screen. Left alone, the Jawas begin to steal sections of your screen desktop and carry them off. The stormtroopers carry blasters and periodically "blast" a "hole" in your screen. I believe there is a Mac version of this as well. Check your local computer stores. We like to turn the computer on and then just sit back and watch!

ERRATA

From: Arwen Rosenbaum via AOL

Subj: ROTJ NPR adaptation...

From: Skip Shay

In ROTJ NPR radio drama in the works?! Here's what I've been able to find out...

From NPROri, the NPR rep on AOL:

OK, here is the scoop... Highbridge, the company that owns the commercial rights to SW & ESB has made some initial overtures to Lucasfilm regarding the production of ROTJ for radio. NPR has expressed an interest in possibly distributing it. Current estimates for a timetable indicate that the radio production would come out in time to coincide with the next film installments (I-III) -- whenever that may be.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

Southern Enclave #8, June 1985. 48 pages, triple column reduced. Opening article: "An Old Softshoe" by Ann Wortham about seeing Mark Hamill in the Broadway production of *Harrigan 'n' Hart*. Also photos of attendees at MediaWest*Con V, review of *Skywalker*#5 by Sandra Necchi, thumbnail profiles of Maggie Nowakowska and Terri Black, consumer complaint by Ann Wortham about several zine editors who had "taken the money and run." Art this issue was by Cheree Cargill. Clippings begin to appear in the pages of SE, mostly as space fillers.

LoCers this issue included Rose Arnold, Elsie Bartok, Tim Blaes, Marcia Brin, Barbara Brayton, Chris Callahan, Melody Corbett, B. J. Evans, Debbie Gilbert, Marlene Karkoska, P. J. LaVasseur, Michelle Malkin, Maggie Nowakowska, Pat Nussman, Carol Regine, Cindy Rodriguez, Sally Smith, Jean L. Stevenson, Sally Syrjala, Barbara Tennison, Lin Ward, and Ann Wortham.

Topics discussed include *Blade Runner*, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and *Witness*, comparisons of SW with Tarot, Joseph Campbell and mythology in relation to SW, the Triple Bill of the Saga which showed around the country (including Dallas, where Jeanine Hennig held down the fort at the theater from 8:30 a.m. until the show started at 4:00, so that the rest of us could get a few hours of work in), the Jedi as a race of people and different skills among them, the fall of the Jedi and Vader's participation in it, the rights of droids in the SW universe, media fen v. SF fen, Luke and Leia as twins and their age(s), Leia as a Force user, and Han's name and what it means.

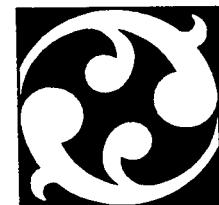
The "Church of Ford" and "Cathedral of Luke" adherents continue their assaults on each other, although

tone of the letters has settled down a bit since the last issue. The war of words will -- mercifully -- end in the next issue or so, after raging for what seems like forever. Fandom is quietly beginning to practice shunning on the parties involved, no longer willing to listen to the virulent diatribes by either side. In a parting volley, however, several members of the CoF turn their attacks on Cheree in response to an innocent remark she made in the previous issue of SE. One accuses her of violating "editorial ethics". Cheree responds by offering to cancel their subscriptions and refund their money.

Zines listed "In Port" included *A Tremor in the Force* #2, *Chameleon* (color portraits by Dianne Smith), *Circle of Light* #1-2, *Combining Forces* #3, *Contraband* #2-3, *Fantasy* #1, *Far Realms* #4, *Field Studies* #1, *Flip of a Coin* #1-6, *Guardian* #6, *Harrison Ford Fun Book*, *Jundland Wastes* (back issues), *Kessel Run* #1 and #4, *Legends of Light* #2, *Melange* #3-4, *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* #1, *On the Mark*, *Outland Chronicles* #2, *Perceptions*, *Scoundrel*, *Shadow Dance* (media zine), *Shooting Star* #1, *Southern Knights* #1, *Syndicated Images* (Australian media zine), *The Old Republic Reader*, *The Princess Tapes*, *The Princess Tapes: The Prologue*, *Wookiee Commodo* #1-2, *Universal Translator*, *VHF-The Complete Book of Lyrics*, and *Well of the Souls* #4.

Zines listed as "Coming" were *A Tremor in the Force* #3, *All That Jazz* (A-Team), *The Baron of Bespin*, *Choice Parts* #1, *Circle of Light* #3, *Echo Seven* #1, *Eclectic* (multi-media), *Just a Coupla Jokers* (Simon & Simon), *Just Deserts* (Rat Patrol), *Not Just Luke*, *One From the Heart* (all Hamill zine), *Perfect Fusion* [one of the legendary "no show" zine], *Perspective* (letterzine), *Power of Speech* (another letterzine), *Signs of Wisdom* ("Desert Seed" novella by Carol Mularski), *Shooting Star* #2, *Sith Yearbook*, *Southern Lights* #1, *The Complete Zeek*, *The Leading Edge* (F&SF), *The Millennium Falcon Casebook*, *The Monocle* (Wizards and Warriors), *The Princess Tapes* #2, *Vertigo* (off the wall humor), and *Well of the Souls* #5.

Also advertised were an announcement by the Texas Rebel Alliance and Archaeological Society (Carolyn Cooper), for members, buttons made to order, George Lucas Appreciation Society, people looking to buy or sell zines, *Miami Vice* stationery, More Eastly Con, ST slides, VHF (Martie Benedict's Harrison Ford tapes), and photos of Ford and other stars for sale.



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Judith Low	mastheads
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NEWS FLASH!!!

This is personal news but I thought you all would like to know it -- Randy has a job! He started work on December 12 as Senior Computer Operator at E-Systems here in Garland. He'd been working for them on a temp basis since April and they'd been dropping hints that they wanted to hire him, but we were not letting ourselves get our hopes up. But it all became official December 7 and you all probably heard us whooping and hollering in joy!

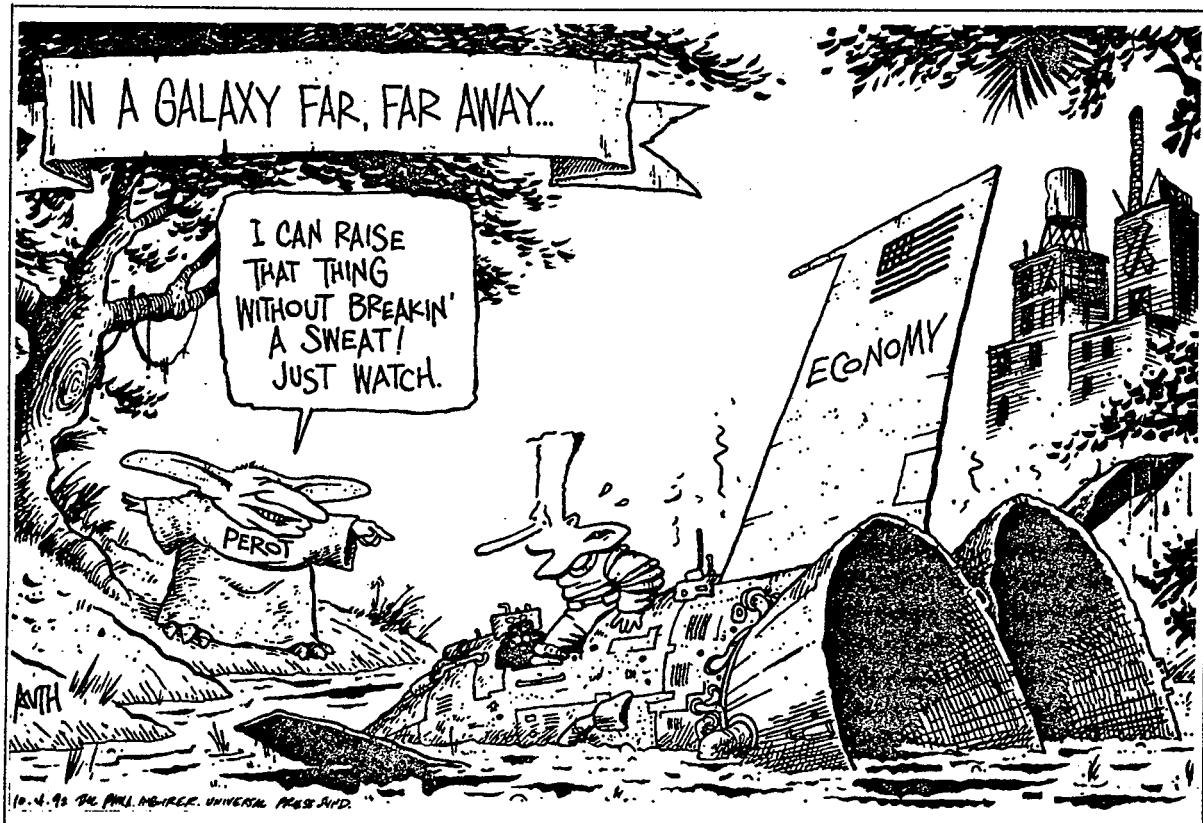
I want to thank all of you who held us in your prayers and good wishes during this difficult year. We made it and I hope 1995 will prove to be a great year for everyone!

JAVA the Hut Frequent Buyer Card

Purchase 6 Drinks and Get Your 7th FREE!



Actual coffee bar in Dallas!



The Force still lives on

New trilogy to be filmed

by Christopher Nixon
staff writer

Lucasfilm and Industrial Light and Magic have been busy lately bringing big movies to the big screen, most recently, *The Mask* and *Forrest Gump*. Much to the delight of audiences everywhere, the movies will not stop there.

When the opening credits of *Star Wars* rolled, everyone was informed that it was actually called "A New Hope," the fourth in a series. The question every fan asked was "Are there three other movies that I missed?"

Now, in 1994, George Lucas has begun work on three more movies based on the *Star Wars* universe. Many questions have again been raised: What will they be about? Who will be cast in the roles? Most importantly, when will they be released? The answers to these questions were answered last week by Lynne Hale, Director of Public Relations at Lucasfilm Ltd.

Lucas has just started writing the stories, already outlined in his head. The new trilogy will be a prequel to the original *Star Wars* trilogy. The content of the story will center on Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, and the conversion of Skywalker to Darth Vader. The Clone Wars, of which General Kenobi was a hero, the rise of The Emperor to power and the purge of the Jedi Knights will probably also be included.

As for who will be cast in the movie, no one knows for sure. No casting has been done by Lucasfilm, although many fans have given their ideas. Most of the rumors about the upcoming trilogy involves casting. Many

people have put Kenneth Branagh as Obi-Wan Kenobi and Sean Connery as Bail Organa, but both are merely rumor. Casting will begin on completion of the screenplays.

For the special effects, it is expected, and confirmed by Lucasfilm, that Silicon Graphics Corporation will be used. Silicon Graphics was responsible for the effects seen in *Jurassic Park*, *The Mask* and *Forrest Gump*.

May 1997 will mark the 20th anniversary of a phenomenon that sparked many imaginations. Tentatively, the first installment of the prequel is due to be released then. Until then everyone will only be able to wonder about the movies—and have patience.

"Old" trilogy re-releases expected

by L. Clator Butler, Jr.
Time-Out editor

In an effort to drum up support for the upcoming prequel to the *Star Wars* saga, Lucasfilm Ltd. is planning to re-release the trilogy (*Star Wars*, *Empire* and *Jedi*) in the year prior to the release of the new trilogy. The established three (henceforth referred to as the trilogy) will have cleaned-up special effects. It is possible that scenes which ended up on the editing room floor before the movies hit the screen will be restored to the re-releases, but Lucasfilm, Ltd. was unable to confirm or deny at press time.

The trilogy, a breakthrough in movie-making technology for its time, is still the standard by which all space-fantasy movies are judged. However, after twenty

years and the introduction of silicon graphics, the effects are beginning to show its age. Lucas, the creative mind behind *Star Wars*, wants to help keep the trilogy as fresh as it was in its first release. Thus, all theater copies are out of circulation pending their re-release.

Tentatively, *Star Wars* will be released in Spring of 1996, with *The Empire Strikes Back* being released in the summer and *Return of the Jedi* following that fall, carrying with it a trailer for the first installment in the prequel.

In less than two years, the next generation of moviegoers will be able to see the trilogy that sent the nation into a craze and catapulted George Lucas to immortality among the stars.

Star Wars
new film
series
return



STAR SEARCH: Branagh

KNIGHT MOVES: According to a recent trade report, **Kenneth Branagh** is a shoo-in for the role of a young Obi-wan Kenobi in **George Lucas'** next *Star Wars* movie. Only problem is, nobody told Branagh. "It's news to me," says his agent, Clifford Stevens. He

notes, however, that if Branagh were offered the role, the actor—who is currently directing *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*—might be receptive to the idea. "I hope there is [some truth to it]," says Stevens, "it's an interesting project." But a spokeswoman for Lucas says it's unlikely that any casting choices will be made soon: "George hasn't even written the script yet." —Frank Spotnitz

ONE BIG HAPPY

BY RICK DETORIE





Thanks to Debbie Kittle, Barbara Anderson, Maggie Nowakowska and all the others who sent in clippings.

Star Wars: the drinking game

author unknown

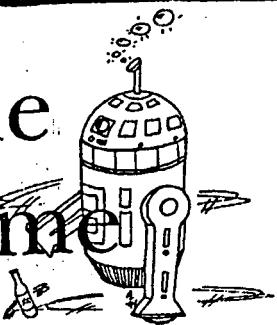
To play the Star Wars Drinking game, you will need:

- The Star Wars Trilogy on tape (one movie for a short game)
- An ample supply of your favorite beverage (milk, right?)
- A really good sound system, so the explosions seem to happen all around you. Kapow! (optional)

Begin by inserting your *Star Wars* videotape into your VCR. Dim the lights for dramatic effect, and play the tape. The game begins right as "20th Century Fox" logo appears on the screen. Once the game has begun, you watch the movie for the listed events. Every time one of them occurs, everybody takes a sip of their drink.

Drink when:

- Someone has a bad feeling about this.
- It's their only hope.
- An entire planet is described as having one climate.
- Somebody gets choked with the force.
- An old Jedi starts to ramble about the Force. (Vader counts.)
- Somebody's hand gets cut off.
- A gigantic technological marvel explodes in a single blast.
- There is a tremor/disturbance in the Force.
- It's not someone's fault.
- Twice if it's not Han's fault.
- Someone is mind-controlled using the Force.
- A good guy wears white or a bad guy wears black.
- Twice if a bad guy wears white and a good guy wears black (for uniforms, only the first person on screen counts).



• An elaborately made-up alien has no lines.

• An Ewok dies, and the camera lingers longer than it did when the Death Star exploded, killing billions of people.

• It is Luke's destiny.

• Luke whines.

• Luke discovers a long-lost relative.

• Luke does a nifty acrobatic flip.

• Luke teeters on the brink of a chasm.

• Luke's parentage is foreshadowed.

• Luke refuses to take someone's advice.

• Something doesn't work on the Millenium Falcon.

• Twice if it's the hyperdrive.

• Yoda uses bad grammar.

• R2-D2 gets thrashed.

• C-3PO loses a body part.

• Twice if he is completely dismembered.

• C-3PO tries to inform us of just how many forms of communication he's familiar with.

• Twice if he doesn't finish his sentence.

• Jabba the Hutt laughs like Santa Claus.

• The Emperor has foreseen something.

• Vader runs into one of his kids and doesn't recognize them.

• Stormtroopers shoot everywhere but where they're aiming.

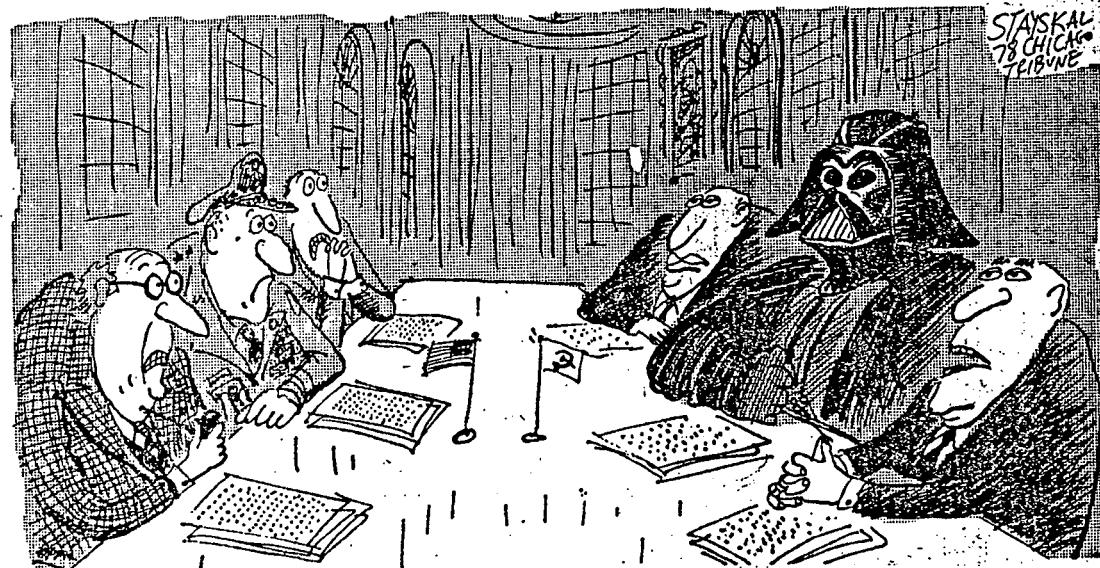
• Stormtrooper armor proves useless.

The game ends when a bunch of furry animals start dancing. No matter what you've been drinking, you will remember this image. If at some point no one can successfully operate the VCR anymore, abandon the game.



Auth. The Philadelphia Inquirer

'Shuttle to Mission Control . . . We're being hijacked.'



"... and we want to assure you that we have no thoughts of using space for military purposes!"

FAN Q WINNERS 1994

ALIAS SMITH AND JONES (GEN) ARTIST
Miss Davis (Just You, Me and the Governor,)

ALIAS SMITH AND JONES (GEN) ZINE
Just You Me and the Governor #7 (Cinda Gillian, editor)

BATMAN (GEN) STORY
Dark Knight (Charlie Kirby, author) (Anything Goes #2)

BLAKE'S 7 (GEN) ARTIST
minds-i-view (The Other Side #9)

BLAKE'S 7 (SLASH) ARTIST
Leigh Rosenthal (Southern Comfort #7.5)

BLAKE'S 7 (GEN) POEM/FLK
Fanzzies of the Night (Jeff Morris, author) (Serrated Seven)

BLAKE'S 7 (GEN) STORY
Only Mistaken (Melanie Chinen, author) (Gambit #10)

BLAKES 7 (GEN) ZINE
Gambit #10 (Jean Graham, editor)

BLAKE'S 7 (SLASH) ZINE
Southern Comfort #7.5 (Ann Wortham, editor)

COUNTERSTRIKE (GEN) STORY
New Moon Rising (Tracey Fretwell and Gillian Holt, authors) (Addington International #1)

COUNTERSTRIKE (GEN) ZINE
Addington International #1 (Cinda Gillian, editor)

DOCTOR WHO (GEN) ZINE
Roving Reporter #3: The Mystery of Mandragora (Kevin Parker, editor)

EQUALIZER (GEN) STORY
Bonds (McClure and Bridger, authors) (Lions, Tigers and Zines)

FOREVER KNIGHT (GEN) STORY
Blood Moon Rising (Pat Dunn, Valerie Meachum & Diane Smith, authors) (On the Wings of the Knight)

FOREVER KNIGHT (GEN) ZINE
On the Wings of the Knight (Ann Hupe, editor)

KUNG FU (GEN) ARTIST
Jeanne McClure (Patterns)

KUNG FU (GEN) STORY
Zen and the Art of House Repair (Catherine Schlein, author) (Splinters of Light)

KUNG FU (GEN) ZINE
Patterns (Jeanne McClure, editor)

MAN FROM UNCLE (GEN) ARTIST
Jeanne McClure (The Kuryakin File #12)

MAN FROM UNCLE (GEN) STORY (TIE)
The Affair (L.R. H. Balzer, author) Kuryakin File #12
Cayo Hueso (Nan Mack, author) (Can You Get Channel D on Satellite Dish)

MAN FROM UNCLE (GEN) NON-FICTION ZINE
1993 McCullum Calendar (Lisa Brazdil, editor)

MAN FROM UNCLE (GEN) ZINE
Kuryakin File #12 (Lisa Brazdil, editor)

MULTI-FANDOM (GEN) ARTIST
Jim Wappel (Media Rare)

MULTI-FANDOM (GEN) STORY
Quantum Exposure (Jane Mailander, author) (Green Eggs & Ham #3)

MULTI-FANDOM (GEN) NON-FICTION ZINE
GAZ (Generic Ad Zine) (Carolyn O'Neal, editor)

MULTI-FANDOM (GEN) ZINE
Remote Control #3 (Kathryn Agel, editor)

PROFESSIONALS (GEN) ARTIST
Anja Gruber (Down Under Express #3)

PROFESSIONALS (GEN) STORY
My Name Is... (Wendy Karmell, author) (Remote Control #3)

PROFESSIONALS (SLASH) STORY
Change of Mind (CFP, author) (Down Under Express #3)

PROFESSIONALS (SLASH) NON-FICTION ZINE
Short Circuit #12 (Joanne Keating, editor)

PROFESSIONALS (GEN) ZINE
Backtrack #7 (Joanne Keating, editor)

PROFESSIONALS (SLASH) ZINE
Leather and Blue Jeans (Gale Good, editor)

QUANTUM LEAP (GEN) ARTIST
minds-i-view (Oh Boy IV: Love and Glory)

QUANTUM LEAP (GEN) STORY
My Brother's Keeper (Carol Davis, author) (Play It Again #3)

QUANTUM LEAP (GEN) ZINE
Oh Boy IV: Love and Glory (Sandy Hall, Sharon Wisdom and Michelle Agnew, editors)

REAL GHOSTBUSTERS (GEN) ARTIST
Joy Riddle (Echo #2, Slime Trails #2)

REAL GHOSTBUSTERS (GEN) STORY
Muddle (Shella Paulson, author) (We Got One)

REAL GHOSTBUSTERS (GEN) ZINE
Adventures in Slime and Time #3 (Kathy Hintze, editor) (posthumous)

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD (GEN) ARTIST
Roseanne Rice (Albion #7)

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD (GEN) ZINE
Tree of Life #4 (Todd Parish editor)

SAPPHIRE AND STEEL (GEN) STORY
The Magic (Linda Cornett, author) (Persistence of Time)

STAR TREK (GEN) ARTIST
Tacs (Matter of Honor #2)

STAR TREK (GEN) POEM/FLK
The 12th Star Trek Convention (Michelle Perry, author) (Abode of Strife #19)

STAR TREK (GEN) STORY
Prisoners (Jeff Morris, author) (Outpost)

STAR TREK (GEN) ZINE
Matter of Honor #2 (Ann Hupe and Janna Stockinger, editors)

STAR WARS (GEN) ARTIST
Wanda Lybarger (Tremor in the Force #7)

STAR WARS (GEN) POEM/FLK
I'll Be Back (Kathryn Agel, author) (Tremor on the Force #7)

STAR WARS (GEN) STORY (TIE)
Deja Vu (Marcia Brin, author) (Alliance and Empire)
Glass Garden (Wanda Lybarger, author) (Tremor in the Force #7)

STAR WARS (GEN) ZINE
Alliance and Empire (Kathryn Agel, editor)

STAR MAN (GEN) ARTIST
C. R. Farmer (Songs of STAR MAN)

STAR MAN (GEN) POEM/FLK
That Amazing Variety (Vicki Hessel Werkley, author) (Amazing Variety)

STAR MAN (GEN) NON-FICTION STORY
UFO's: True, False, or Does It Matter? (Christine C. Menefee, author) (Amazing Variety)

STAR MAN (GEN) STORY
George and Eddie (Todd A. Andrews, author) (Amazing Variety)

STAR MAN (GEN) NON-FICTION ZINE
Spotlight STAR MAN of Ohio Newsletter (Lynda Sappington, editor)

STAR MAN (GEN) ZINE
Caught in the Middle (Zena Uzep, author and editor)

VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA (GEN) ARTIST
Deb Walsh (Below the Surface)

VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA (GEN) STORY
Heart of the Matter (Kathryn Agel, author) (Anchors Away)

VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA (GEN) ZINE
Below the Surface #7 (Kathryn Agel, editor)

WAR OF THE WORLDS (GEN) NON-FICTION STORY
Wipeout (Gillian Holt and Laura Grigsby, authors) (Remote Control #3)

WAR OF THE WORLDS (SLASH) NON-FICTION ZINE
It Is What It Is (Cinda Gillian, editor)

WAR OF THE WORLDS (GEN) ZINE
Green Floating Weirdness #6 (Cinda Gillian, editor)

WAR OF THE WORLDS (SLASH) ZINE
Business Associates #1 (Cinda Gillian, editor)

WESTERN (GEN) STORY
Night of the Fenians (L.C. Wells, author) (Remote Control #3)

YOUNG RIDERS (GEN) ZINE
The Pony Express #1 (Donna Pleasant, editor)

1995 FAN QUALITY AWARD NOMINATION FORM

HISTORY: The Fan Quality Awards were originated by Sharon Ferraro and Paula Smith in conjunction with SeKwester*Con Too in 1977. The categories that year were "Best Author/Writer" and "Best Artist" and this was within the "Star Trek" fandom only. Since 1977, the FanQ's have reflected Fandom's changing trends. Through fan involvement, nominations are tallied and a Fan Q Ballot is created. The Ballot is tabulated and certificates are awarded each year at MediaWest*Con.

NOTE: One nomination per form. Make as many copies of this blank form as you wish. All nominations must be on this blank form or exact photocopy of this blank form. Altered forms (including reductions and computer generated copies) will not be accepted. All information filled in on this form must be original, printed in ink or typed. Forms with items filled in then photocopied in mass and signed will not be accepted. Nominations received after the postmark date will not be accepted.

(Check One)

MULTI-FANDOM (More than one Fandom involved)

FANDOM (Only one Fandom involved)

NAME OF FANDOM: (Fill In)

GEN (Non slash of an adult nature or not)

OR

SLASH (Same sex physical relationships, not necessarily explicit.)

CATEGORY (Check One)

ARTIST (Artist not artwork)

NON-FICTION ZINE (Letterzines, newsletters, adzines, indexes, calendars, etc.)

POEM/FILK

STAND-ALONE ZINE (Any piece published by itself, includes novels)

NON-FICTION STORY (Articles, essays, etc.)

ZINE (Fiction, any collection, in print, of stories, poems, artwork, etc.)

STORY (Fiction, any piece, any length, published within a zine)

TITLE: (Title of Poem, Article, Story, Zine, etc.)

AUTHOR:

ARTIST:

PUBLICATION: (Name of publication TITLE or ARTIST appeared in)

EDITOR'S NAME & ADDRESS:

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I am a MediaWest*Con member and my membership number is:
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FINAL BALLOT:

Three (3) nominations and at least two (2) different competitors (persons) in each Fandom/Category will qualify an item for the Final Ballot, however, only the top five (5) nominated items in each Fandom/Category will appear on the Final Ballot (more, in case of a tie in nominations).

WHAT TO NOMINATE:

Any new publication or items printed within a publication or by itself, originally published between January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1994. Materials that have been reprinted in a zine from previous years, do not qualify. MediaWest*Con Staff does not qualify.

You may nominate as many items as you wish, however, you may nominate a specific item only once.

Note: In the artist category, you are nominating the artist and not their specific individual pieces of work. Nominate only once for an artist. You may nominate the same artist in different Fandoms.

Nominate anything you feel is quality, including your own work. Don't be pressured into nominating something you personally don't like, simply in the name of friendship, etc. Use your own judgment and keep the Quality in the Fan Quality Awards

An effort will be made to notify all nominees who make it to the Final Ballot.

WHEN THIS FORM IS COMPLETELY FILLED OUT:
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Include two legal size S.A.S.E.'s, a 3x5 card with your name, address, phone number and signature on it. If you have turned in a card in the past and information is the same, you don't need to send in another one. Also include \$1.00 (the one time yearly fee) if you are not a MediaWest*Con member.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 15, 1995. DATE STAMPED ON ENVELOPE BY POST OFFICE WILL BE DATE USED.

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IF YOU ATTENDED MEDIAWEST*CON THIS YEAR AND PARTICIPATED IN THE BLASTER BATTLE/ROLE-PLAY, (EVEN IF YOU ONLY SAT IN THE CANTINA AS "LOCAL COLOR") PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS FORM TO: PAT GRANT; 2343 N. CEDAR ST., APT A; HOLT, MI 48842. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL THE ORGANIZERS, BUT NAMES WILL BE LEFT OFF (AND PAT'S NOT TALKING!) SO PLEASE BE HONEST!!!
PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING AS: • 1-Don't want • 2-Poor-needs improvement • 3-OK, no comments either way • 4-GREAT!!
• 5-Couldn't possibly be any better! • 6-Not/Applicable-didn't get involved in it

1 2 3 4 5 6

The Blaster Battle this year

Taking role-play out of the Battle

Ann Goetz (gen, org, & role-play)

Christine Bonder (battle org.)

Chris Falcone (judges org.)

the Cantina

the weekend in general

Friday night dance*

*what would you think of making the dance a general Star Wars Masquerade as well, with people being introduced by name and persona, and getting judges to vote on them and hand out prizes?

Vote on that idea here: [\[link\]](#)

Also, please circle your preferences on the following:

Battles: **A:** Two - 2 hr. Skirmishes, Sat. & Sun **B:** One - 3 hr. Battle & One 2 hr. Shootout in the Atrium

PP in Battle: **A:** Leave role-play in battle **B:** Take role-play out of battle

Blaster Battle length: 2 hr. 3 hr. Other: _____

Blaster Battle day: **FRI** **SAT** **SUN** **(TIME:**

Skinnish day. 2000

Day for Dance/Party:

DO NOT PLACE YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THIS FORM, BUT MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON THE ENVELOPE YOU MAIL IT IN (ANONYMOUS FORMS WILL BE IGNORED)- THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!!

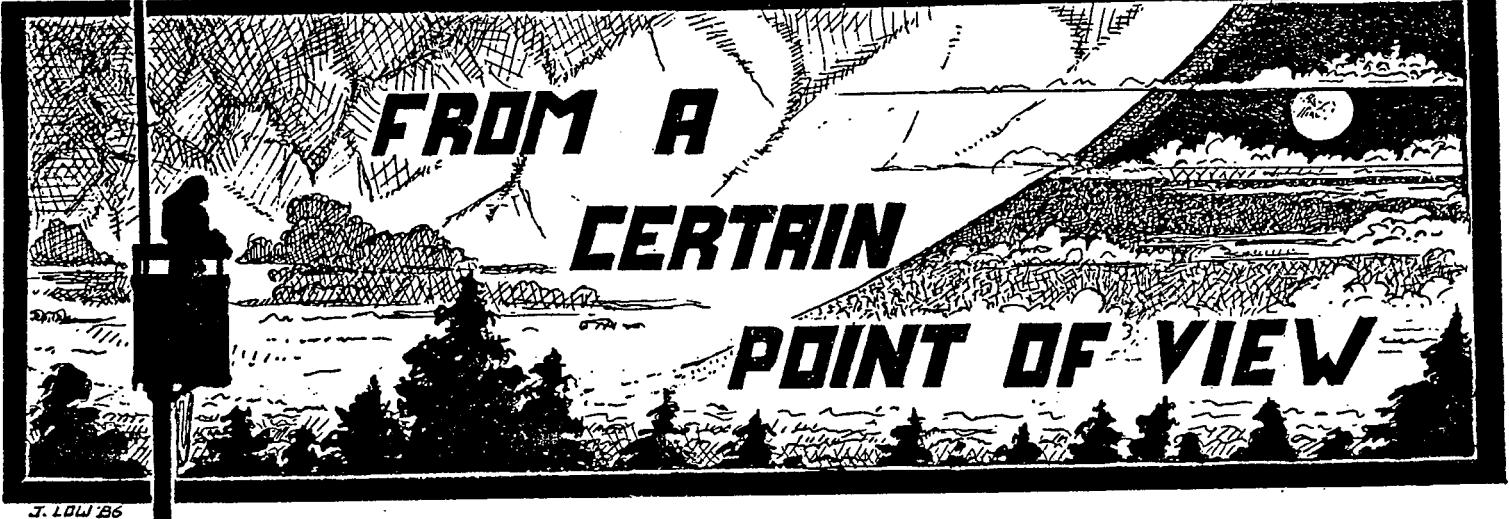
(AND IF YOU DON'T FILL THIS OUT & SEND IT IN THIS YEAR, WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU COMPLAIN NEXT YEAR!)

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE 8

- "All the Marbles", a brand new story by Martie Benedict, art by Wanda Lybarger. It sounded too good to be true. The strange little alien had a fool-proof plan for getting rich and she was willing to cut Han and Chewie in on the money ... but their part in the scheme got a little complicated...
- "On The Third Day" by Carol Hines-Stroede, art by Nancy Stasulis. An Alan Patronis story. Vader is dead, the Alliance is in power, and the Dark Lord's top assassin is in custody. But when he attempts suicide, it is up to his long time friend, Dr. Jen Berani, to save his life. Little does she dream that her past associations will now come home to haunt her.
- "Balance of Power" by Veronica Wilson, art by Z. P. Florian. Politics consist of power plays, and it is a complicated web that Vader, Tarkin and Palpatine weave as they prepare to launch the deadliest weapon the galaxy has ever known.
- "Mercy Mission" by Cheree Cargill, art by Wanda Lybarger. All Han had to do was fly to an Imperial controlled planet, pick up some medical supplies and bring them back to the Alliance base. Leia positively guaranteed him that absolutely nothing would go wrong. Yeah, right...
- "The Trial" by Patricia Kelley, art by Catherine Churko. Luke Skywalker had saved his father's life when he pulled him from the impending explosion of the second Death Star. He didn't think about what might be ahead for Anakin once he recovered from his wounds.
- "Heart's Blood" by Marti Schuller, art by Melanie Guttierrez. A major Alliance espionage source has mysteriously fallen silent. Han and Luke are sent undercover to find the source and rescue the agent if possible. What they find in their search for "Heart" is enough to turn any agent's blood cold.
- "Every Droid's Dream" by Carolyn Golledge. The sequel to "High Seas". Jake Kellahan, the mad Corellian, is back and he and Han are in trouble again. This time they have crash-landed on a planet controlled by droids. Can they talk their way out of this one or is it up to Threepio to save their hides?
- "Man to Man" by Carol Hines-Stroede, art by Nancy Stasulis. There were a few things Luke had never learned about the Force. And sometimes a boy's just gotta talk to his father.
- "Seek and Ye Shall Find" and "Patterns of Battle" by Catriona Campbell, art by Gerald Crotty. Two new stories in the *Penumbra* series. While on Tatooine to rescue Han from Jabba the Hutt, Leia takes time to visit the Lars farmstead, searching for some remembrance of Luke. Meanwhile, the Son of Vader prepares for battle.
- "Shadow Talk" by Z. P. Florian. The Emperor has Luke Skywalker in his possession. Now the battle of wills begins.
- "The Right Thing" by Nora Mayers. Han and Leia's children were strong in the Force. It was now time that they be trained by Luke, but not surprisingly Han had equally strong objections.
- "Her Ladyship" by Marti Schuller, art by Z. P. Florian. The venerable Lady of Alderaan had outlived all her companions and only she remembered the truth about the Rebellion Against the Empire. Now she must pass her knowledge along to a new generation.

Much much more! This issue also features stories by Cat Anson, Mary Jo Fox, Yvette Ghilan, Sandi Jones, Lisa Papp, Susan Deborah Smith, Louise Turner, and Susan Zahn. Poetry by Kathryn Agel, Cheryl DeLuca, Yvette Ghilan, Jennifer Moore, Lynda Siegel, Jacqueline Taero, Veronica Wilson, and many more. Additional art by Nicola Pearce, Robert Beard, and more of your favorites.

You won't want to miss this zine! Estimated page size: 300+ pages. Scheduled publication date: Fall 1994. Now taking orders. \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Make checks payable to: Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043. Get your order in now!



J. LOW '86

THE PROBLEMS WITH COURTSHIP

Nora Mayers
5485 Columbia Road #523
Columbia, MD 21044

Greetings to all and sundry persons of fannish inclination. I would like to begin this letter by asking all of you to ignore Susan Zahn's invitation to visit in Wisconsin. She ain't there no more. She is now living in my neck of the woods. Heck, she's living in my living room! We've had some lively debates since we became roommates in August ["Those ARE timepieces on Luke's glove in Empire!" "They are NOT! Are you crazy?!"]. I think I'm getting the best of this roommate deal, though. Sue's 'zine collection is undoubtedly impressive. She will, upon occasion, find me on my knees in her bedroom, deliriously rooting through her many boxes of 'zines. While we were waiting to move into our new place we stayed with the lovely and talented Liz Sharpe -- she of the many dogs (each one very special and a testament to their owner's care and training expertise. Leaky Pete's still my love, Liz!). Yes, three fans in one house is as hilariously chaotic as it sounds! The three of us also established firmer ties with the rest of the Maryland Dead Bothans by visiting the Kennedy Center where the Corellian himself was due to make an appearance for the premier of *Clear and Present Danger*. Harrison musta heard we were there 'cause he didn't show (his plane was grounded in New York because of weather). We had a moment of tension (I almost heard the collective intake of breath) when a very nice limo pulled up to the curb and a well groomed, very masculine hand opened the door, followed by a perfectly-groomed pair of blue trouser legs. Unfortunately, what further emerged was neither very impressive and certainly not Corellian. We're good little Bothans, though, and had no

intentions of doing more than taking a peek at Harrison. The Kennedy Center and Harrison were not our original destination, however ('Twas mere coincidence that he was there the day we were downtown). We were actually in D.C. to visit Planet Hollywood, that modern and somewhat unlikely restaurant/movie museum owned by Willis, Stallone and Schwarzenegger. We couldn't get in (not because we're Bothans, mind you, but because they were overbooked). So although we were unable to achieve even one of our goals that ill-fated day, we still had a great time trading wisecracks over pizza at TGIF, and perplexing subway patrons within earshot with our SW in-jokes.

HO-KAY on to the letters!

Pat Nussman, Carolyn Golledge: Thank you so much for your kind words about "Nashtah." It was alternately a joy and a horror to write. The sequel is proving to be no less troublesome, but at least it seems to be coming a bit faster! Coming from the talented likes of *you guys*, such compliments are truly meaningful. Giving credit where it's due, Part One of that novel was published in Carolyn Cooper's *From a Certain Point of View #5*, although it underwent some revisions to better adapt to Parts II and III of the finished story. Regarding Wanda Lybarger's "Mirrors," boy do I agree! Absolutely one of the best SW stories I've read to date.

And speaking of Wanda: everyone calls her insectoid costume "bug"! I think the Dru would be highly offended by such a racist slur!

Liz Sharpe: Have you recovered yet from our stay? Are you keeping regular hours again now that we're gone? Let's see ... evidence of Chewie as a male Wookiee. Hmm. Han calls him 'pal,' which is not a tag name a male is likely to attach to a female companion (Hey! I know it's weak! I know I'm reaching, but I'm *trying!* How come you ask questions like this, *anyway*?!?). Then, there is the Christmas special that shows Chewie with a wife and son. And he sorta looks male, doesn't he?

The Courtship of Princess Leia. ARGGGH (growl, snarl, hiss). As I so tactlessly said on GEnie (and later learned that my less than enthusiastic comments were being relayed to the author) I despised the novel. If I may:

(1) Han in a kitchen apron; (2) Han dropping a hot blaster and whimpering (yes, *whimpering*) "ooh, hot"; (3) Luke's abundant willingness to help his best friend's rival win Leia's affections (with friends like these, who needs enemies?); (4) Han saying to Luke, "I guess you're going to beat me up now," or something along those lines (the book hit the wall on that line); (5) Leia perfectly willing to ditch the man she fought side-by-side with during the war, and for whom she deserted the Rebellion (however temporarily) to look for on Tatooine, just 'cause someone says she oughta. Don't tell me Leia's the last best hope of the Galaxy. Please. And don't tell me that anyone could tell Leia she *MUST* do anything!; (6) a very, very, very bad serotype of witches straight out of Grimm Fairy Tales; (7) the fact that Han has a IQ of zero throughout the entire book, and really manages to say some pretty stupid things; (8) Han pouring his heart and love life out to Threepio -- then asking him for advice! [Excuse me while I pound my fist against the wall. There, I'm better now]; (9) the people in the booth in the cantina wondering what Leia ever saw in Han in the first place (he's disgusting, don't you know? If there was ever any doubt that a man wrote this novel, this is the line that should convince you. Wolverton is obviously not seeing Ford through female eyes); (10) a stupider than stupid ray gun that makes people humble to your will ... look, I could go on about this book until this letter is longer than "Nashtah"! But now I want to hear from those of you who loved the book! I really do, I'm not being sarcastic. One of *my* very major concerns about *Courtship* (as well as the Dark Empire series) is that new fans, discovering the series through the novels will begin to write Han with this idiotic persona. And don't think it's not a real threat. When questioned about Han's apparent personality change in *Courtship*, the author said that he took Han back to the character we saw in ANH. Why, many of us have asked, would anyone do that when Han has changed so much since that first film? And in any case, the idiot in *Courtship* doesn't remind me of Han in ANH. Does anyone else see any similarity (outside of the bravado, which I *do* recognize).

On another track in a similar vein, I am concerned that the novels are being taken as canon. One fan was telling us on GEnie that a new fan she met wasn't interested in fanfic when she now had the "real thing" in the pro novels. Personally, I find that disturbing. Fanfic -- much of it high quality and much better than what's being sold professionally -- has been out since 1977 (Maggie, are you there?). It's a slap in the face to these talented amateur authors to be told their work is worthless because they're not being paid for it. A check is just a slip of paper, folks.

Fans have been writing out of genuine love of the series; I seriously doubt that all the writers being commissioned to write the pro novels have the depth of commitment that most fan writers have. Furthermore, the fans were there when the powers that be lost interest. We're due a lot more credit than they're giving us. This isn't to say that there aren't great SW pro authors out there. *Truce At Bakura* was a fine job in my opinion, and I'm looking forward to the Crispin and MacIntyre books (they may be the only two I buy in the pro series from here out). I guess what I'm saying is that I'm bothered by much of the genuflecting to the pro authors I've seen because they've "given us back Star Wars." Funny, I never thought it went away. Not if much of the quality fanfiction I've read is any indication.

All right, all right! I'll climb off the soap box! Looking forward to the next SE, and y'all Fly Casual!

SHORT IS GRAND

Z. P. Florian
6214 Waterway Drive
Falls Church, VA 22044

Hello again... Yes, we Virginians are busy working on the next doll exhibit; wedding on Endor, birth of the twins, who knows what else. But to the more important things --

Cooper: I know which cover you are talking about, with the swooning Leia, and it's pretty obvious it was meant to be a spoof, but you should see the faces of my colleagues when I have it out on the desk... Still, I can certify that FACPOV is PG, at worst PG-13.

Taero: What a great idea to separate Anakin's fall from the Emperor's influence. Why take it for granted that it was Palpie who corrupted the young Jedi? Could have been anything or anyone else! So, when are you going to write it?

Zahn: Yeah, go encourage the male fans to write! We need them!

Sharpe: So, I'm short? Short is in the eye of the beholder! Short is grand! Short is Yoda! You would like to be as short as I am, but you can't, nyah, nyah, nyah! When four feet ten inches you will be, look as good you won't! Re: Han being a criminal or not... Sure, anyone who smuggles for Jabba is definitely a criminal, but that does not mean he can't be a basically decent person. Robin Hood was a criminal. The Confederate blockade runners were criminals. The alcohol smugglers during the Prohibition were criminals. Any sweet old grandpa making moonshine was a criminal.

Schuller and a lot of others: We are indeed fortunate, because what I thought might be a split in the fandom turned out to be no more than a flitting shadow. At MWC, and on the pages of SE, the most often said word was

"tolerance", and I've heard IDIC mentioned quite a few times. I loved Maggie's definitions: JAMs and CMLs -- I'm both, obviously, and so are the vast majority of fans. Those who write outrageously funny stuff usually also write awesome tragedy.

Crotty: Hats off to you, your art is splendid. I agree with you on Ewoks: they are not cute, nothing is cute about people trying to eat Luke Skywalker! Moore said it all, actually, when she noted that the Ewok culture was too shallow for us to develop strong feelings for them. I certainly don't think it's okay to befriend Leia while trying to eat Han ... how can anyone justify the idea? If Leia doesn't come out of that hut in time, would they offer her a nice slice of Solo for dinner? Owww... Now, here is something that could be a tragic alternative or a funny cartoon -- take your pick.

Anderson: I understand the need to respect Lucas' wishes to keep the sandbox clean -- although with all the really bad books published lately, I think the sandbox is getting a bit muddy; can't think of anything more morally offensive than Han and Leia's children being raised by some babysitter! My zine will not be sold to anyone who might not know what it is. Again, I must say that it is not nearly as daring or as explicit as all this excitement makes it seem. But not publishing it is out of the question, because we are talking about splendid, excellent, well-plotted stories that more than deserve to be read. As Golledge so aptly put it: "It's all a matter of having the means and the right to choose." So, if someone chooses to read it, they will have to ask me next May for a copy. In order to protect the innocent, *The Rest of the Garbage* will not be advertised in any zine.

Ghilan: Well said about Leia being a true hero! She is strong and wonderful -- I used to hate Carrie Fisher for wanting to show Leia break down under stress -- there were and are women like her; our society is not all that tame, and she is a wonderful role model. Some twenty years ago, she was the first female hero I'd seen shooting at the enemy. I was shocked and delighted.

Enough for now...

LIKE RAIN AFTER A DROUGHT

Marti Schuller
415 S.E. Annette
Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403

August 29, 1994

Receiving SE 39 was like getting rain after a drought. MWC is wonderful, but it's so long in arriving and so quickly over that this letterzine and my SW correspondence/friends are all I rely on between times to

keep me out of a rubber room.

Of course, it was great to see all the convention photos. They brought back a lot of good memories. I also enjoyed Judy's con report, though she could have just mentioned there was a birthday celebration without naming names. (It was a terrific surprise and quite definitely magical, however.)

I got a good giggle out of the cartoon "Barroom Buddies" by A. G. Steyn, too. Her irreverent sense of humor always gets to me. Maggie's "In the Beginning ..." report was extremely thorough and quite insightful. There really is nothing new in fandom now, is there? I must say that after reading this, I'm not as sorry I missed SW fandom's birth and growing pains as I once was. Thanks, Maggie, for your obvious care and hard work on this article.

Now to the letters.

Carolyn Cooper: Movie ratings for zine ads and contents is not something I want to see, frankly. For one thing, what one editor considers violence might not fit another's or that of the readers. Creating a consistent code would never work either. Who would serve on that panel of decision-makers, for example? Professional publications have no such ratings, to my knowledge. You buy a novel on recommendation or because you like the author or the jacket blurb attracts your interest or the cover catches your eye and you take your chances. Personally, as far as SW fiction is concerned, I've only felt stung a few times and the volumes of good material more than counterbalances the other.

I always thought Karen Allen's character was the best match for Indy, too. I wasn't aware of problems between Ms. Allen and Mr. Spielberg, though. Why the conflict?

Nora Mayers: I'm sure Vader was eager to find Obi-Wan and eliminate him "first and foremost" during the Jedi purge, but I'm equally convinced that the Dark Lord was not entirely a free agent at that time. Being the Emperor's servant, Vader probably had strict instructions to destroy as many Jedi as possible, as swiftly as possible. I doubt Palpatine would have indulged even his prized pupil's personal vendetta at the risk of failing his larger plan -- the destruction of the Knighthood as a significant foe. Perhaps Obi-Wan was just fortunate to escape the first major blow and smart enough afterward to find a hole to crawl into until things cooled down. Dagobah, maybe?

Z. P. Florian: While it is true that Luke was right about the good in Vader, had I been in Kenobi's place, I'm not sure I would have trusted Luke either. Let's face it, Luke didn't seem to sense this "good" until after he'd learned the truth. Too often we -- young and old alike --- want to believe something so badly we ignore danger signs, following our hearts instead of our heads. This time it worked out, but that isn't usually the case. The young may have clearer sight, but experience should count for

something too. Ben may have followed his hope for good in Anakin when he saw him being led astray by Palpatine and the infamous duel between them could have been the result of that innocent desire. Wouldn't he want to spare Luke that kind of pain and disillusion? I believe he would. A caring adult usually tries to prevent a younger friend from making their same mistakes.

Jacqueline Taero: You raised some thoughtful and valid issues arising from *Jedi Search*, but, frankly, I so hated that book that I cannot accept anything from it, even for the sake of good discussion. Like the film *Aliens 3*, I prefer to pretend *Jedi Search* doesn't exist. And, yes, now that you ask, I *am* part ostrich.

Amanda Palumbo: Thanks for the kind words re my stories. Making readers consider new ideas or aspects is gratifying, of course, but I confess, I write chiefly to entertain. As for Luke's needing a family to achieve "emotional evolvement", I believe his students would provide ample opportunity for growth and an extended family involving no fewer emotional ties than blood relations.

Susan Zahn: It's great to see your name among the ranks of active SEers. Your description of what MWC means to you was apt, well-written and echoes my own sentiments exactly. Nicely phrased.

I like your ideas concerning spice in SW, too.

It was terrific to see you again at MWC, though we didn't get to talk much. Yes, it was 1988 when I first attended the con and we met, but I didn't get back until '93. What a difference it was, too! Now, I hope I never miss another year. See you in '95.

Liz Sharpe: All this "Dead Bothan Society" business only intensifies my feelings of isolation, you know. Seriously, it's nice that some fans aren't limited to MWC for get-togethers and fun times. I'm willing to join any "enclave" or "society" based on the love of SW -- if only there were enough fans near me to form one!

Ah, one of my fav questions, the Emperor and/or Vader's knowledge or lack thereof concerning Yoda. Personally, I like to think they considered the little fellow's existence to be mere myth and dismissed it accordingly -- to their dying regret.

As for Yoda's reaction to Luke saying he understood when Kenobi said he couldn't help him, I found your idea interesting, but I don't share it. I think Yoda is expressing disbelief. Luke thinks he understands the implications of Ben's statement, but he doesn't really and Yoda realizes it. His reaction, to me, is similar to that of a parent when a child says "I can do it myself" and the parent is fully aware the child cannot.

Maggie Nowakowska: I found your JAMs and CMLs comments fascinating, but I have a real problem with labels. Like most folks, I'm prone to using them now and again, but there are so many who always fall between the

cracks, so to speak. By your definition, I guess I'd be a JAM with CML overtones. I love to play fast and loose in SW and have fun, fun, fun, but I do espouse staying true to the film characters as much as possible in my writing, unless it's an out and out farce, of course. I adore silly stories, yet find some material oversteps my ideas and degrades the heroes too much. I guess I'm deep in that crack myself, huh?

Debbie Kittle: I figured quite a few fans would be upset, angry, indignant, etc. over the ROTJ plate not having Han and Vader on it. Surprisingly, though, I've heard little discussion about it. Maybe I just don't travel in the circles where it was under attack. I own none of the plates myself, but would only want the first one anyway. I just like it best. ((*Ed: I have all three plates and my only objection is that more original art was not incorporated into them instead of stock publicity shots.*))

Louise Turner: Your paragraphs on intolerance in fandom were so wonderfully, eloquently written that I had to say BRAVO! You've spoken for many of us, IMO. Thanks for putting my feelings so beautifully.

Brian Harris: Hi. It was nice to meet a fellow SEer during your brief visit this summer. And you survived the ordeal, too. That's encouraging.

I like your comment on in-fighting that "without all of us, there would be none of us". Well said.

Barbara Anderson: A thousand, nay, a million thanks for the surprise "care package" of available SW merchandise you were so kind and generous to send me. I accept your pity for my insular condition with humble gratitude. Who says Han lovers can't be considerate and giving toward Luke lusters? May your blaster never fail and your *Falcon* fly forever straight and true, friend.

Carolyn Golledge: Thanks for the congrats to Veronica and me on our STAR aWARdS win. You know how ecstatic I still am. I agree wholeheartedly with your observations of the FanQ presentations. How dull after the excitement and pageantry of Judy's ceremony. (A well-deserved accolade to Wanda's skill nevertheless!)

Cheree's response to you also provided me with a flood of smiles. I *loved* Ann Wortham's "In-Law" series. I missed the story referred to, though. I *have* to buy Judy's author bibliography! I wonder if I'd recognize any of the "in" characterizations, however. Cheree, what do you think? Would newer fans like myself recognize anyone we know? ((*Ed: I'm not sure, Marti. It would depend on how much of the older stuff you'd managed to read, I imagine. And the referenced "In-Law" story was, I believe, in Tremor #2.*))

Tim Blaes: I chuckled heartily at your response to Yvette. Three sea shells, indeed! Wicked man.

Okay, so theoretically a man may be able to carry a child to term and deliver by Caesarean, but tell me, do you know any who would voluntarily put themselves through

morning sickness, water retention, swollen ankles, backaches, mood swings, etc., if they didn't absolutely have to? I sure don't.

Michelle Malkin: Just call me Kermit 'cause I'm green with envy over your trip to England and Wales. It sounds like a dream come true. I've never managed to escape this continent myself and must live vicariously through the adventures of others, so tell all, please!

Your statement that Vader saw the evil of the Emperor and finally understood it only at the end contradicts my own view of the Dark Lord. I believe Vader saw Palpatine's evil well before he ever knew of Luke's existence. However, for one reason or another (or a myriad combination), he took no action against him until Luke came along. Learning of his son doubtlessly produced disquieting thoughts and reawakened long buried emotions in Vader. Still, he was not completely ready to confront either the Emperor or himself even then. Remember his line to Luke that it was "too late for me"? Only when forced to choose between his son's certain death or his own did Vader call forth his reborn self/soul/whatever and follow his heart.

Veronica Wilson: Hey, you call me 99% of the time, remember. It may limit our SE conversations, but don't stop now either! You're my sanity lifeline when my creative well runs dry, my dear and good friend!

Tina Bentrup: I, too, felt the panels at MWC this year were different than in '93, but a lot were on identical topics, too. Parts I & II, remember? That probably kept some attendance down, but I still felt most were pretty lively. Let's just hope there's a far better organizing of panels next year. This year was unhappy for nearly every fandom, from the bits of conversation I overheard throughout the hotel and lobby.

Who says Obi-Wan was alone in that desert? Just because we never see anyone with him and he appears to be a hermit doesn't mean he didn't slip off for a few friendly, romantic, or otherwise interesting trysts in Mos Eisley or elsewhere. If Kenobi could go crazy on Tatooine, what of Yoda on Dagobah? I'll take Jawas over creepy-crawlies any day, thank you.

Thanks for the congrats and feel free next year to "bum" away. I'm always well-stocked on that particular "weed".

Catherine Churko: Glad your dad is doing so well.

That about covers my contribution this time around. Hello to everyone I failed to respond directly to and I hope all who wanted one got their rooms at MWC '95. (I did, thank the Maker.) As to the mix-up over the nearly forgotten LoCs, Cheree, it's nice to know you aren't infallible after all. You still got them in, though, so maybe I'll have to revise that.

Last, but certainly not least, I am hereby throwing out a blanket invitation to all SEers and SW fans to come enjoy

my new toys. For our silver anniversary, we indulged ourselves and are now the *proud* owners of a stereo set and a 52" stereo-surround-sound TV! The Schuller mini-theater is now open. Reserved seating requested in advance, please.

Have a lovely autumn, all.

CONDEMN OR ACCEPT?

Debbie Kittle
11521 Idlewood Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20906

September 25, 1994

Hard to believe it's September already and winter is just around the corner! Some really great SW stuff coming out. In fact, I think we can safely say, we are being inundated with it. First off, the new microplaysets are absolutely adorable and so well done. There's Endor, Hoth (my personal favorite for obvious reasons) and the Death Star. The new ones that are still to come are R2, Vader and 3PO which open up to display a whole scene from the movies.

The new Galaxy II cards are out and are quite nice. The new Sansweet book on SW collectibles is mind-boggling. I didn't know they had done 90% of the merchandise he listed. Just finished *Champions of the Force*, Anderson's last installment and I really enjoyed it. I felt it wasn't as exciting as his other two but still a great read.

Just picked up the printed version of the NPR SW Show and according to Brian Daley, there are portions that were cut for the on-air version.

Great MW pics -- brought back some great memories.

Young Indy Jones Chronicles are headed for the Family Channel on cable which is nice. First 2-hr movie is due to air in October.

Onto the meat of SE: First off, I want to thank Maggie for the first installment about SW fandom. It was really great to read and I look forward to the rest of it. I wasn't involved in fandom at this time so it helps me understand what was going on and hopefully how we can stop history from repeating itself in regards to the unpleasant aspects of early fandom.

Carolyn C.: Some Eastern Enclavers wanted spring/summer but this Dead Bothan wants winter to return.

Jacqueline: Some interesting questions you brought forth. In regards to your question about *Jedi Search* and why can't the Alliance survive without a new order of Jedi Knights, one answer is that then there would be no new books coming out as that's a major premise for the writers. But really, I think most of the members of the Senate remember "the good ol' days" of the Jedi and would like to see their return. Thus they gave Luke and the Jedi a 2nd

chance. Of course, it'll take a while to get up to speed and number to effectively handle the entire Galaxy.

One question I'd like to throw out is (and I want everyone to think this through completely and honestly) what if a fanwriter got a hold of a prowriter's work a year before publication and decided to run it in an SW fanzine (forget about all the legal problems that would arise), would we fans be as condemning or vocal in our opinions? I get the impression that some have a mental block about the prowriters. I'd like to hear others opinions on this.

Amanda: It was nice to hear from you & welcome to the family!

A.G.: Mrs. Yoda Skywalker?! Unexpected this is ... but who knows? Might be true.

I missed that scene where Luke is groping Vader's thigh. As I'm dubbing for you, I'll have to check this out.

Wasn't HF great on the *Tonight Show*? I have never seen him look so pissed. Great show, though.

Marti: Shame *those* pics of mine didn't come out. Had a blast doing it though. Re: Lucas on ET: He said, "The characters are younger, much, much younger. It takes place at about, the first one which will come out is literally about 40 years earlier than the first movie." There are some other points but that's really the important part you wanted.

Maggie: Re: the chess set, the pieces are wonderfully crafted. I heard/read that they hadn't made any pieces when they first started taking orders as I've only gotten 4 pieces in a year & the chess board is delayed another 2 months. Anyway, the base of the pieces are either white with blue stripes or black with red stripes but both pieces from both sides are pewter in color.

We liked the title "Eastern Enclave" but felt we needed something a little more descriptive & "Dead Bothan Society" works well.

Really liked your JAM vs CML. I find I'm a JAM with a bit of CML. Without SW, I wouldn't have met all these wonderful people & having the time of my life.

Louise: Totally agree with you about the smut/purity. You stated it beautifully.

Brian: Look forward to meeting you at MW next year! Sometimes I feel like a bounty hunter tracking down SW stuff (new & old). Only wish someone would pay me!

Barbara: An industrial size snowblower? What a great idea! I look forward to my gift of snow. Speaking of snow, these past few weeks at the animal hospital has seen clients returning from Alaska vacations or returning to live there. I wonder if they need any help?

Actually, here hasn't been *too* bad. Temps never made it to 100 (yeah) though humidity became quite unbearable. Now it's over (almost).

Yes, have seen the other Han model and have him on order. Found a great new comics shop (over an hour away but worth it) & they ordered him for me.

As to why Han is absent from the Bendie line, I'm not sure. I know I read in 1 of the computer gaming mags that Han wouldn't be in the computer chess game as HF had a problem with his image being used. I'm not sure if that's one of the reasons or not. The character of Han is coming out in a ton of other things (models, pewter figures, T-shirts, etc). However, Han is now officially a Bendie, albeit not a real recognizable one. So far, only Wal-Mart has singles and TRU has the 4 pack.

Got the new LFL mag and it wasn't bad. I look forward to the Carrie Fisher interview in next ish.

Carolyn G.: Great MW report! What memories it stirred! Remember, you're an honorary Dead Bothan.

Tim: Agree with you re: the pro novels. I enjoyed them all. Sure they had some parts that made me wince but that's happened in fanfic a lot of times. No one has written the perfect SW story because there are too many of us out there and we all have differing opinions. Besides, these people get paid doing what we do for nothing, except love of the Saga.

The Herculoids? Loved that show! Zok is the *Falcon*, Egoo is Chewie, Gloop & Gleep are the droids, Zandor is Han, the woman (I forgot her name!) is Leia and Dorno is Wesley (wrong universe, I know but he would definitely not be Luke). Tundro as Yoda?

I think we Dead Bothans would consider NC a Dead Bothan state.

Would Leia have had time to do a zine? I mean between Senate meetings and all those legal/illegal diplomatic missions, who'd have had time? In her later years, she'd do an autobiography -- "My Life As a Rebel Alliance Leader", "My Alderaan, My Life" or "Hoth Days, Tatooine Nights". And she'd do spy thrillers with her real life as basis.

Mickey: How was the trip? Hope you had a great time!

SFC showed *Vampire Hunter D* -- loved it. The attention to detail was great -- tons of blood in the right place! Good story, too!

Veronica: I've let Cheryl P. know that you want an Igneous Rock shirt so hopefully as soon as she gets a break from work, she'll get a chance. We BD's want a shirt, too.

Re: Droid prod/selling -- I see a few big corporations doing most of it but I'm sure there'd be companies doing droid "clones" (take the pun anyway you want). There'd be 1 or 2 companies that would help the Alliance and the Empire, that's why I'd see raids on both places by both sides to get as much info as possible.

Certainly does have interesting story potential. Maybe in a year or two...

Yvette: Re: RFTSWGEN was shut down because of "national distribution" & without GL's OK but it wasn't sleazy, IMO. It had some interesting stuff in it and reminds me of Mary Jo's *Blue Harvest* in their article content.

Tina: Agree with you on the panels -- there were too many duplicated ones so I skipped a couple plus had a room sale going on so something had to be sacrificed.

Why didn't Owen call Luke "son"? Two reasons come to mind: a community such as that conjures up the feeling that everyone knew everything about the each other. Suddenly Owen & Beru having a son might be awkward. It might depend on when he came to live with them but unless Beru was in hiding for 9 months, it would be hard to explain unless they were Luke's only living relatives. Also, Owen seems to have an aversion to Luke's father so any closer relationship to Luke might not set well with Owen or being reminded several times a day by calling Owen "father".

We're DBs now, Tina, and so are you and Dan. You are now part of the tribe, uh, clan. I'll be writing you personally about this.

Catherine: You were in DC? That wasn't a good time to be here. If you ever plan to do DC again, please contact me or someone else here further south. We should get together & do lunch.

Dead Bothan Sue: Welcome to the neighborhood! It's great when our family grows. How's Hannibal Lechter? Still dancing the Polka with him??!! Had a great time at your B'day party at Blob's Park.

Dead Bothan Liz: Hey there, liked your points re: Yoda and Luke accepting his responsibility. That's the way I saw it. Enjoyed your "ornery suggestion".

A word of warning to everyone: if at anytime in your life you find yourself having a picture taken with Liz, make sure she is front of you with both hands & arms visible. I've learned my lesson. We are going back to Planet Hollywood for a re-do portrait. Anyway, a group of us got together & went to this restaurant & had a great time. The atmosphere is incredible & the food was fantastic. A lot of great props were seen but the only SW thing was DV's helmet worn by Dave Prowse. I can just picture Cheryl P., Veronica and Tina bowing before it. I recommend going if there is one near you. We are definitely going back. They also have the head piece to the Staff of Ra from ROTLA as well as HF's handprints in cement.

Dead Bothan Mary Jo: Howdee! Glad we could get together for *Clear and Present Danger* and *Lion King*. Both movies were great and enjoyed the SW references in *Lion King*.

Dead Bothan Jennifer: If I see another pack of plastic card sheets, I'll scream!!! Hopefully, we are set for a while. We better be!

Dead Bothan Cheryl P.: I sure did miss you this last ish and hope to see you next one!

A few last items: Shame about Peter Cushing. He'll be missed by all.

Also, want to wish everyone a warm and dry Holiday season and for myself a delightfully cold and white one!

Fly Casually In The Force! P.S. Hope to see some of you at Eclecticon in November.

Just caught Maggie on the TV show *48 Hours*. A real surprise!

Something I thought I'd never see: Vader and the Energizer Bunny! A great commercial!

TIMELINE

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August 26, 1994

Hi ho... and welcome to the Mophead Show (looking at certain people in certain garbage crushers, this could well be a new name for ANH).

And, hell yes, Catherine Churko -- this here Agitator's having *great* fun with her italics. I reserve the right to be as italic as I please! What would my ramblings be without my little idiotic side remarks? (A lot shorter!!! Thanks, dear Ed.) Uh ... didcha say Agitator??? Wait, I'll get you for that...

I just finished reading *Truce at Bakura*. Nice work. A *lot* better than anything by T. Zahn, whose second sermon (*Dark Force Rising*) I still haven't finished (been at it off and on since September 1993!), and whose third book I never even did buy. TaB had a lot of cute little side plots that made me smile ... and poor ole Han still hasn't accomplished anything, Leia-wise. Neither has Luke (will he ever??). Awww... that's so unfair! Stormtrooper Threepio? Now *that's* enough to make a Sithlord cuss. C'mon -- the Empire may deserve punishments but not that severe!!! And, yes, I think Dev should have survived. He was a cute kid and fit nicely into this crazy urriiverse. Uh, a thought on the side: Firwirrung does sound awfully close to the German "Verwirrung" (puzzlement). Was that intentional? I mean, with T. Zahn's "stroke of genius" of naming the Vonsskrs "Sturm" and "Drang", everything seems possible.) I had a good laugh when I stumbled upon the phrase of Han doing an "Immelmann". Aww -- c'mon now. Does anyone really believe that anyone in that long ago and far away galaxy knows a German fighter pilot of the 20th century??

All of you did of course catch HF on the Jay Leno show lately, promoting his new movie. Is the guy phantasmic or what? Funny thing he seemed more comfy discussing his accidents and mishaps than watching his movie debut in *Dead Heat on a Merry-Go-Round*. For a while I thought he was going to stomp out of the studio, foaming at the mouth ... but no, he stayed and gave us his legendary

"Han-on-the-scanner-grid" face (Get me out of here!). Getting hurt *twice* in the same stupid TV show? Who wrote the script? Carolyn Golledge??? But hats off to a man who doesn't mind admitting wearing false teeth and dares running around with visible scars and choice other blemishes in a business where 98% of his colleagues spend half their income on cosmetic surgery and don't even admit it when it's blatantly obvious they have "helped" mother Natare a bit, beautywise. (Jacko would be the classical case or Bill "gosh, am I amazing" Shatner, who's been wearing a toupee and a girdle ever since the *Enterprise* launched half-a-zillion lightyears ago). And, talking HF on the *Tonight Show* ... did you notice the young black lady (Ellen Whatshername?) claiming he had kissed her *in* the mouth? In? Not on but *in*? A mile-deep French one, Harrison??? WOW!!

Carolyn E. Cooper: Movie ratings system for zine contents? Great idea. You have my vote on that one.

On the subject of "hardcopy", I don't think that it will ever be really obsolete ... but probably in our future only very important documents that require original, hand-written and unadulterable signatures, or maybe certain valuable books will still be in hardcopy. All newspapers, magazines, mail, encyclopedia, etc., will be computerized, with hardcopies becoming valuable collector's items. From my PoV, I hope we will not ever make the complete move to electronic books. Reading from a screen is much more stressful to the eyes and books are so pretty (...and space hogs bar none, you hopelessly romantic fool!).

Jacqueline Taero: Good point about the primary purpose of droids being to interact with and control complicated technology for the humans. Very plausible, since what person (aside from Mr. Spock) could possibly memorize such an enormous amount of data -- and in so short a time -- than a droid? 6 million forms of communication are more than any human can ever manage. No problem for Threepio. And look at all the hidden hints in SW that serve to cement your theory: Beru wants a droid that speaks Bocce. Han yells at Chewie to "take the professor back and plug him into the hyperdrive." And it's always R2 who doubles as a safe and a hauling truck for all kinds of important information.

On the subject of Viceroy Organa: maybe Viceroy Organa was allowed to keep his -- dysfunctional -- title not to cause major disturbances among the populace of the systems but had to leave the ruling to Emperor Palpatine and his henchmen. Which, on the other hand, didn't prevent Organa from gathering an underground army around him, recruiting all sorts of different people in opposition to the Empire for what reasons ever. (See WWII Italy: Republican Army/Northern Italy -- The "Duce" Mussolini /Royal Army/Southern Italy).

Amanda Palumbo: BLUSH (over both ears)!! Don't do

that to me ... I'm one of those who can't handle flattery. Are you really sure you're crediting the right person? Maybe you fell in love with somebody else's art that you somehow mistook for having sprung from my pencil. I shouldn't know what "great art" worth talking about I have turned out within the last 5 years. About the similarities between Luke and Beru: I've been noticing that for a long time. That's what caused me to make Beru and Luke's mom sisters in my private SW galaxy. Alto' one might (after all those surprises the trilogy in general and Obi-Wan in particular had in store for us) suspect that Beru was really Luke's and Leia's mother who had only tied herself up with Owen Lars not to forced to bear her babies out of wedlock after Anakin took to the Sith. I *am* a warped mug? No, honey ... I *have* a warped mug. Remember, I'm a misplaced Corellian.

Liz Sharpe: Thanks for the provoking questions. Here comes a provoking answer. No, Darthie would hardly fit into Yoda's hut. But why should he try? Knowing the man, he would probably just lift up the whole building to have a peek.

Hey, your "ornery suggestion" reads like a promising rough draft of a really funny story, altho' in the end the poor kid will probably end up in the looney-bin.

Is Chewie a male? Chewie -- according to the (in)famous SW Holiday Special -- has a wife and a son. So that would make him a male (unless it's common practice on Kashyyyk that women marry women and only seek males to produce offspring). However, Lucas had -- before "inventing" Chewbacca the Wookiee -- a female creature sharing Han Solo's life: something described as a cross between a guinea pig and a dog, about 5 ft/short, by the name of Boma. She was supposed to be his *girlfriend*. But somewhere along the line, Georgie dropped this daring idea, realizing that he was dancing on thin ice by introducing interracial ... no, interspecial sexual relations to the SW galaxy. Not fit for a family program! (Just our luck, my dear fellow smuthounds.)

Marti Schuller: Ah -- the time line. Isn't it funny how the people who dream up movie or TV serials manage to warp their own universes by allowing inconsistency of their timelines? It happened on *Simon & Simon* ... and now it's also happening in SW. As if the matter wasn't already complicated enough. Let's try to get a grip on the problem: In the novelization of ANH, Luke is 20. In the movies, his *twin* sister is still in her teens (16/17?) Since Luke is always addressed as a minor, let's assume he was 17 in the first adventure. Let's further assume the following ages for the other people involved:

Beru Lars = 58 at the time of her death

Owen Lars = 60 at the time of his death

Ben Kenobi = 65 (older brother? of Owen) at beginning of ANH

Han Solo = 26 (very wild guess!) ditto

Darth Vader = (same as Beru) ditto

Then we end up with the following ages at the time of Luke/Leia's birth (minus 17 years):

Beru Lars = 41

Owen Lars = 43

Ben Kenobi = 48

Han Solo = 9

Darth Vader = 41 (a young Jedi???)

But now Lucas talks about the new stories of how it all came about starting 40 years before ANH. Hence:

Beru Lars = 18

Owen Lars = 20

Ben Kenobi = 25

Han Solo = not yet born

Darth Vader = 18 (now that's a young Jedi!)

If Anakin had -- as the legend goes -- fathered the twins before he fell to the Dark Side, at somewhere between age 18 and age 25, Luke and Leia would have to be between 33 and 40 years old at the start of the trilogy. Not likely!

Had Anakin fathered the twins at age 41, he wouldn't have been a young Jedi, but a middle-aged Sithlord. This would of course mean that Mama Skywalker did not go to bed with "good" Anakin but "bad" Vader. Or did Anakin not fall into the lava pit until his 42nd year??? Still a Jedi trainee at that ripe age? Not likely, either.

Sigh!!! Lucas, what is it with you? Are you trying to test our logic to the limit -- or are you the one slowly going bonkers??

Maggie Nowakowska: Amen to your PoV regarding profanity in fanlit. If it fits the situation and the character of the person using the cuss word, it adds realism to a story. After all, I certainly wouldn't expect Han to say "Oh, my -- Chewbacca... Couldn't you be a little more careful?" after the Wookiee had let a heavy hammer drop onto Han's toes. I know how I would react! As long as profanity is not overdone, I'm certainly not against it.

But then ok -- I'll freely admit it (and may it be known hereby to all): I am what you call a JAM. Oh, sure I find the characters and the story intriguing, and the religious aspect of the movies hits pretty close to home. But still, I'm basically in it for the fun it provides. Lucas made a wonderful movie trilogy ... and wonderful millions of bucks with it. Good for us (having the movies) and better for him (having the moolah). If that is the wrong approach -- well, I guess I'll have to live with it. (Hey, should I twist my universe too much, just yell or throw a pillow at me. OK? Not that it'll make a difference -- but at least you can claim you tried to stop me from turning SW into a whirlwind.)

Debbie Kittle: I think I'll wait for Lucasfilm to come up with something a little softer than this cardboard hunk. Did I say "softer"? Uh, lemme rephrase that. I meant, some lifesize Han doll stuffed with something cozy enough

to cuddle up to. Hard parts optional!

Mary Jo Fox: Ah -- what a thought provoking question. How will Han cope with... Well, Leia wouldn't be Vader's daughter if she wouldn't find a way out of this dilemma ("We have ways to make you stand and deliver, pirate!"). No, actually I think that the medical technology is far enough advanced to bridge the sexual "generation gap" quite adequately.

Barbara Anderson: No sense in trying to stop Z. P. and her infamous zine ... the Rancor's already out of the pit. I only say: May the Friskies be with you! and us all, for that matter, for if Uncle George reads *that* little publication, he'll have us all frozen in carborite. But should he dare take *me* to court over something that insignificant I will be happy to point out that he'd better take a close look at his "employees". With "Princess Leia" writing things like *Surrender the Pink*, "Han Solo" giving interviews in which every fifth word is of the 4-letter variety ... and being caught giving a photo journalist on a busy street in Paris the middle finger (during the filming of *Frantic*), with "Wedge Antilles" running around in the nude on screen and on stage and playing bed scenes where and whenever possible, and with "Luke Skywalker" licking chocolate off of bare bosoms (Howard Stern show) ... well, I don't think that a simple fanzine circulating among a handful of this world's population will endanger the good reputation of Lucas and SW. Hey, Georgie-Baby ... we mean no harm. We may be crazy, but we're not dangerous.

Yes, HF is doing this *Sabrina* remake with Julia "The Grin" Roberts, of all persons. *Yuck!!* (Gimme your hat! Why? Because I wanna puke in it!)

Tim Blaes: The "wipe" issue... I guess they have some sort of laser "wiper" (but considering the state the *Falcon* is in, I wouldn't dare make use of it). And a cloned Luke isn't half as much fun as a pregnant Luke! Just think about all the fun the kid would be having. You wanna deny him that wonderful experience? Gosh, you men can be so inconsiderate...

In the *SW Holiday Special*, Han looks as if he were facing the hangman's noose when Leia starts warbling. Luke is swallowing a big lump in his throat. Is it the girl's singing -- or the fact that they have been caught in such a silly kiddyshow that brings tears to their eyes?? Mark really looks like he did a nose dive into the makeup pot. Even his hair looks dyed (a totally unnatural yellow ... Talkdroid Gold or whatever you call it). The whole haircut is strange, too. It's my guess that this special was taped just a month or two after Hamill got out of the hospital, where (according to some sources) the doctors used some ear cartilage to reconstruct his nose. That would account for his hair being cut off around his ears in this ridiculous fashion.

Bothan's are dying to see me, eh? High time I go and visit their place.

Susan Zahn, Tina Bentrup, Z. P. Florian: What is this? The *sauerkraut* side of the Force? Na, wenn Ihr unbedingt wollt, können wir ja unsere Leserbriefe auch in Deutsch schreiben. Mir egal! (Threepio -- you be the translator).

Hey, it's been good to read y'all. May the *Ford* be with you, fellow Han-Lusters, and may you have lots of *Luke* in the upcoming months, you cradle-robbers drooling for Jedi flesh.

FIRST LOC

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August 24, 1994

Warm greetings and salutations from the American subtropics!!

Yes, a new name and a new face to join SE. You, BN Fer's and old timers, be kind, be merciful and remember that once, you too, were a neofan. I must thank in print, Z. P. Florian, Arwen Rosebaum and Ming Wathne for being so helpful to me when I wrote them babbling on and begging for assistance in finding out more about SW fandom. Also, hers truly, the Editor, has been very kind about sending me back issues of SE so I can get (sort of) caught up on the variety of topics under discussion. Bless them all.

So:

Carolyn Cooper: Yes, I do agree that a rating system would be helpful in describing fanzine content. Although I have not been personally offended by anything I've encountered so far, it's certainly possible that some people have more sensitive tastes than I do regarding sex, mayhem and violence in stories. The movie rating system is one we are all familiar with -- it would be a logical starting point. I suppose it would be up to the editors to self-rate their zines, unless it wasn't too unwieldy to rate each story. (Like editors don't have enough to do already). On a similar note, keeping the true x-rated material in one place is also an idea I could live with. As someone in SE pointed out some issues back, regular professional publishers do it. I don't buy *Glamour* or *Starlog* with the expectation that I'll have to deal with photo spreads or stories that would offend me. On the other hand, if I were interested in sexually explicit material, I know that *Penthouse* and *Playgirl* are available if I choose to buy them. But I don't want to get slapped in the face with it unexpectedly, you know?

Which is the perfect segueway to Z. P. Florian regarding her forthcoming (and I use that term deliberately -- insert smiley face here!!) pornzine!, *The Rest of the*

Garbage. Per Barbara Anderson's cautionary letter, Z. P., you have the experience and background in fandom to know what is "safe" and what isn't, with regards to Papa George and LF. Use your judgment on this. I would hate to see anyone in fandom get into any sort of legal difficulty. Excuse my ignorance, but what has the precedence been with regards to both ST and SW on this subject? P.S. I am also slavering to get my copy!!

Barbara Anderson: Along this line of thought, I just wanted to say that I can understand your point of view, but I don't agree with it. Your comment that "George Lucas gave us the SW universe" is what attracted my attention. George hasn't *given* anyone spit -- he *sells* movie tickets, and story rights, and a shitload of merchandise to anyone with a dollar. I never saw a SW movie for free -- I either paid at the box office, at my cable company or at the video store. I can sort of see what you mean about the "universe as playground" idea, but as far as I'm concerned fandom can do what it wants with fanfic and fan art. Label me naive if you wish, but George stepped out of the picture a long time ago. I think his actions with regards to the third trilogy are clear: he has no interest in dealing with the post-ROTJ crew at all -- that's why he's selling it off piece by piece. As for the first trilogy, well, you won't see any change in my respiration patterns until I see a trailer!!

Marti Schuller: With regards to Anakin/Vader's age, this is an interesting question. My take on it is this: Anakin meets Kenobi in his late teens or early 20s while Kenobi is probably close to 30ish. Old enough to be a mentor/teacher. Anakin's fall is about 7 years later (the 7 year mark is generally a turning point in any relationship, not just marriages). Luke and Leia are conceived shortly before this time as I firmly believe that they were born of the Light. So Anakin goes poof! in the lava pit and becomes Vader around age 27ish. Now fast forward to the end of ROTJ: Luke appears to be approaching 30 -- he's certainly not the youthful farm boy he was in ANH. (Is there any canon re the time frame between the movies??). So that would make Vader at least 55, possibly close to 60 years old when he dies. Vader's age is an important consideration as I feel that running out of time is one of his primary motivators in TESB and ROTJ (somewhat like your "Where is Thy Sting?"). He must feel the pressure of middle/old age and is aware of his limitations with regards to defeating the Emperor. I'm looking forward to others' opinions on this!

On a lighter note: the group therapy session with core members of Ripley, Leia and Sarah Connor must be led by none other than -- Dr. Lillith Sternon-Crane!! With her no nonsense approach to behaviorism she wouldn't tolerate excessive whining from the group but would instead focus on changing behavior patterns through positive reinforcement. I can imagine her telling Leia to make a change in her choice of friends since the ones she has appear to be

hazardous to her health.

Gerald Crotty: Good grief, have you opened the dam's floodwaters regarding the new trilogy!! All I can say (and hope for) is that it had better be good. SW, as much as we criticize it and tear it apart, was an extraordinary step forward for movie-making. With computer animation and effects, we can assume that they will *look* fantastic -- let's just hope that the storylines are up to par. Some of the fanfic I've read is so good that Lucas will have a hard time topping their work (Carol Hines-Stroede, Veronica Wilson, Virginia Tully, to name a few of my very favorites). I don't have a clue about casting though, with the exception of *very* personal preference for Dolph Lundgren (after lots of acting lessons) to take on Anakin/Vader. He would just look so good in a black cape!! It would be a hoot to see some of the regulars in a cameo of some type (Harrison Ford as a barkeep or Carrie Fisher as an Imperial records clerk), but I doubt Lucas would cast any of them in a major role.

The laser disc set will be my Christmas present to myself this year. Seeing and hearing films on disc are a huge step up -- I'm looking forward to getting this boxed set!!

Yvette Ghilan: I can only assume that your negative generalizations about women expecting others to do things for them is applicable to your society and culture. Let me assure you that things are different here! A lot of my women friends are absolutely extraordinary people; they are single parents raising decent children, they are doctors, horticulturists, massuers, corporation presidents, artists, and mechanics. Not one of them expects others to do anything for them. And to make another rude generalization and quite possibly start a few gender war most of the time the women I meet are a hell of a lot more impressive than the men!!

Tina Bentrup: The unmasking scene in ROTJ was a critical part of the story. I liked it as part of the plot, I was just real unhappy with Shaw as Vader/Anakin. He just wasn't the cold-eyed, high-cheekboned-yet-scarred semi-Nazi Aryan that I had imagined he should be. Remember this was a villain of mythic status. As much as I cringe at the Uncle Fester and Humpty-Dumpty jokes I've seen in SE, dammit, they have a ring of truth. Shaw was too pudgy and squishy looking to be appropriate. He didn't look really scary. I thought Mark was wonderful in it though. What do you think?

Miscellaneous musings: David Prowse made a guest appearance at two Orlando sci-fi stores in May of 1993. There were about 400 of us waiting for the Dark Lord himself. It was a real good time but a long wait. Prowse is a nice man and chatted with people and posed for pictures and signed whatever people brought. I have the black background Vader helmet poster signed in silver ink hanging in my living room!

Also, on a sad note, in case some of you missed it -- Governor Tarkin died in August. Peter Cushing passed on but left a legacy of entertaining film work for us to enjoy. His Tarkin was wonderful even if he did have a "foul stench".

Thank you again, Cheree, for producing SE for all of us. Looking forward to the next issue!

FEEDBACK NEEDED!

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Holt, MI 48842

August 31, 1994

Greetings! Well, it looks like autumn is here. I sure hope autumn lasts longer than summer did! Yes, I know that some of you have had a hot one, but up here in Michigan, it's only been a few days here and there. And sorry, Debbie -- I'm not ready for snow for a long time yet! I was worried when I moved in March because my new place doesn't have air conditioning, but I never once missed it this year! Anyway, one good thing about it being September is, it's only nine months until MediaWestCon!

Speaking of which, I have a request I'd like to make of anyone who went and got involved at all with the Cantina, and who is not a member of F.O.E. We would like some input on how we're doing and what you think. We'd appreciate any comments sent in as LoCs for our newsletter of course, but we also have a flier with specific questions which we'd like you to fill out. So please, if you were there, write and let me know to send you one of our fliers. SASE's would be appreciated, but are not mandatory. (F.O.E. members will be getting one with their newsletter this month.)

I'm also looking for artists (I know -- *everyone* is looking for artists!). We need artwork for the covers of our newsletters and it can be anything generally SW (PG-13 at the most please). We also need artists to do illos in our club persona zine, who can work from written descriptions, or in some cases, photos. We also need cover art for said zine, which can be anything generic depicting scenes in a cantina. For submission guidelines, write to me.

I want to say before I go any further, that I really enjoyed seeing all of you at MWC, both old and new friends. And I can't wait to see you all again! Now on to other comments...

Z.P. Florian: I agree with your comments re: Ben lying to Luke. I have never been comfortable with that. Many say they can understand why he did it -- to protect Luke. I don't buy it. Do we really know Ben's motivation here? I think Ben saw an opportunity -- felt how strong Luke was

in the Force -- saw him as their "only hope" to get rid of *his* mistake (Vader), which he had been unable to take care of himself. He saw Luke as his Redemption, and gave little to no consideration to how Luke would feel once having killed Vader, only to find out that Vader had been his father. I feel it was a flagrant example of the belief in "the ends justify the means" and far from what I would consider ideal Jedi behavior. He couldn't tell him the full truth because Luke would never have agreed to kill his own father. There is proof of this in the movies. He was all gung-ho to "get Vader", especially after having seen Vader "kill" Ben. But once he learned that Vader was his father, his tactics changed. He kept trying to *talk* to Vader and change him. I think in the end, it just boils down to the fact that Ben was just desperate. Getting the message from Leia, he knew he could no longer do nothing. But he was also getting on in years. Here was Luke -- how convenient. He told Luke what he had to in order to inspire Luke, but nothing more. The Galaxy needed Luke -- the Jedi, not Luke -- the son of Vader. Ben's intentions, I'm sure, were of the best, and far from selfish, but I don't feel it's ever right to take advantage of another person.

Another thought: why else would Ben have chosen Tatooine as a place to hermit himself? Why not Dagobah, with Yoda? I think he was waiting around just for the purpose of being there when the right moment came to "direct" Luke in the right direction. His actions had been planned and weren't spontaneous. This really bothers me, and puts Ben into a very, very "grey" area, even though we are led to believe that Lucas saw the universe in black and white (the good Jedi and the evil Sith).

Nora: I think another reason I like Ian Malcolm is because of how excited and impassioned he can become when explaining his theories -- while everyone else tends to be ... underwhelmed, or just don't understand at all. It kind of reminds me of myself, or any fan, talking about anything we like, especially SW, to a mundane. I identify more with him than any of the other characters.

To Several: I agree that you shouldn't lump smut, pornography, and homosexuality together as a generality. Whether a couple should consist of a man and woman, or two of the same sex, is a matter of personal belief and preference. Some may believe it is not right, but that doesn't make it pornography. However, I have to say that a lot of the fannish material I have seen in this area (especially "slash") is what I *would* classify as pornographic. (I do admit I have seen or read little of this field as I personally am not interested in it.) However, it is not the homosexuality which makes it porn or smut, but rather, the manner in which it is written. Explicit sex is explicit sex, whether it be about a gay couple or a heterosexual couple. Personally, I'd like to see something written about gay characters in a romantic atmosphere. (Let me point out that "romance" does not necessarily

mean the same thing as "sex" -- something some writers seem to forget, unfortunately.) It's like Suzanne Sugarbaker said on *Designing Women* (one of my favorite non-science fiction shows) about the topic of pornography: "It seems funny how the Supreme Court can't seem to come up with a clear definition of just what is or isn't pornography, yet the guy down the street who runs the XXX bookstore doesn't seem to have any problem knowing what merchandise to stock. Why don't they ask him?"

I have to say that I really don't like most slash. I feel if you want to write about gay characters, do so, but make up your own! I feel that slash is simply out of character in most cases, and I don't like any fan literature where the characters are written so flagrantly out of character. Apologies to those of you who read or even write slash. But that's how I feel.

Jacqueline Taero: Bravo! on your comments re *Jedi Search*. Especially #4. If the New Republic is so pitiful, does it deserve to survive? *Good question!* If the original Republic became so corrupt, leaving it open for Palpatine to take over, what could happen with this new one if it is beginning on shaky ground? And isn't it so anti-climactic, after the Trilogy, and after everything they've been through, that they would end up back at square one -- a weak Republic which only the Jedi can save? Isn't that where it all began? So does this mean they've learned *nothing*? I have a real problem with this writer's works and wonder if he saw the same movies I did. Or did he watch them at all? I shudder at the title of his third book, considering our group (F.O.E.) has produced a zine called *Tales from the Cantina* for the last two years. Ah, well. I hated *Jedi Academy* and *Jedi Search* was worse. I agree with many who say that *Truce at Bakura* is the only recent SW fiction out there worth reading. Let me clarify this by saying that I'm not against new characters and new adventures. There are *many countless* stories out there in zines which I have just loved! And look at our own F.O.E. club personas. I just don't feel these stories are being written well, and I feel there are many fan writers out here far more deserving of having their stuff produced professionally than most of the ones who are.

A. G. Steyn: I think it's not only possible but probable that many of the Rebels were married or had some sort of relationship. We're not sure just how long the war was going on before the start of the Trilogy, but one could argue either way. If the actual war had just started, many would be involved by this time anyway -- especially those older members such as Rieekan and Mon Mothma. If the war has been going on for years, there would be relationships develop for two reasons: certain needs and desires can only be ignored for so long from anyone not of a celibate-for-life mindset, and there would be a need to propagate the species while a generation or more are

slipping by and many are dying in battle.

Liz Sharpe: Regarding your comments on MWC -- the Dark Side, I think we need to start a massive letter writing campaign to the hotel *urging* them to consider adding a new wing to the hotel -- with all five floors, connecting it into a triangle -- or maybe even a new wing plus an additional floor or two on top of all three wings. As I understand it, they have other groups with a similar problem as us, and in the long they are actually losing money by all the people staying in the other hotels, or not coming at all because of the room situation. They could make that money themselves, and we could get a lot more people in the host hotel, and we'd all be happy.

Thank you for your very kind words about the Friday night Cantina party. We did have a blast and I hope you can make it next year! The idea of having music and a live DJ went over B-I-G! We will be doing it again next year -- same day -- same time -- same place. Pass the word! On the flip side, I missed the SE party! I hope to make it there next year as well.

Provoking responses to your provoking question: I don't see how either Vader or the Emperor could know that Yoda existed. They never mentioned him. Vader knew of Luke but was surprised about Leia. He'd never even suspected when he'd held her prisoner and tortured her. I have a feeling that Dagobah (remember the planet could only be found by someone actively seeking it through the Force) acted as a cloak for Yoda.

And about Yoda's reactions, I am among those who were under the impression that his reaction indicated disappointment and frustration. But you make an interesting point. I'll have to watch that scene again and think of your POV and see how it looks then.

Now, about those Ewoks... I couldn't agree with you more. Ewoks eat people! Just what *was* in that stew they served at the celebration? There were an awful lot of stormtrooper helmets being used. Hmm... Comparing them to teddy bears reminds me of Spock in ST, when his mother mentioned his pet *sehlot* and described it as a sort of teddy bear, which Bones found amusing. Until, that is, Spock explained about the teeth and claws. I *never* have liked the Ewoks!

Is Chewbacca really male? From what we know in the movies, who knows? However, there was that Holiday special (sorry -- had to mention it) in which we meet Chewbacca's family, including his wife. That would make him male. Of course, I know most fans would like to forget that special...

Mary Jo Fox and Yvette Ghilan: I guess I did kind of come down hard on Leia. I didn't mean to. I only meant to point out that I felt there were strong females before her, and that I didn't feel she was *that* strong. However, I do *like* the character -- I think she's great! And when I mentioned her whining and complaining, I was thinking

mostly of the first movie. I also think mostly of her reactions to Han, especially when she was complaining about him just after the garbage disposal. I *understand* why she felt grouchy, but I felt she was being a bit rude and childish to Han, Chewie and Luke. Sure, maybe they didn't have a plan, and maybe things were going poorly, but at least they were *there* and were *trying*. (Please don't quote Yoda to me. I think there is a lot to the fact that a person tries to do something. To say "Do or do not, there is no try" reminds me of parents who tell their kids in school that a C isn't good enough. Either you get an A or you have failed. That has always angered me. And having Yoda say this only reinforced this excel or fail idea.) My point is, Leia was too quick to judge and complain. Of course, I'd probably be the same after being captured, tortured, and watching my home get blown to bits.

Actually, the point I really had meant to make was that in almost all cases, the strength of a female character in any show can be directly related to the strength of women in real life society at the time the show is produced, and is not indicative of any faults or weaknesses in the show itself. My favorite show for strong female characters was *Cagney and Lacey*. It showed women who were good at their jobs, while having a feminine side as well. I hated to see it come to an end.

Yvette, you asked what Forces of the Empire is. Actually, F.O.E. is a multi-faceted club. We seem to have become a mostly role-playing club. Members create their own SW personas, and role-play together through letters, phone calls, newsletter transmissions, and stories. Some stories are printed in our newsletter, longer ones go into the zine, *Tales from the Cantina*. However, we also have several non-role-play features in the newsletter, such as the Discussion Corner, where members talk about different topics (one topic per issue) and From a Certain Point of View, where members write reviews of books, zines, and other things. We have several members who do not create personas and enjoy the newsletter for these other things. But the role-play has become the largest part and the newsletter contains sections for each of the five main divisions. We even have some reporter personas with two "newspaper" sections. It's all rather amusing and lots of fun. By the way, F.O.E. was formed in 1980 (under a different name) and changed names in 1987. We have published the newsletter under different formats and are up to issue #74. Not long ago, we looked ahead and realized that issue #100 will be due out in February of 2001! Our first newsletter of the New Century! We hope to make it very big and very special! If anyone is interested, I do bring the club archives with me to the con every year, so you can see every issue we ever printed.

In answer to your questions about the blaster battle -- we don't use the game written in the books by West End Games. We do use the books for reference on occasion.

But we do live action role-play and have rules of our own. We don't use dice at all. We do have statistics with ranks assigned only for the purpose of determining things, such as who shot whom, if role-play doesn't work. It's like being in a play, without a script. We get points by reaching certain goals and by capturing certain items.

One interesting historic fact about F.O.E.: Originally it began as a sort of joke. I was a member of a group in Florida known as *The Royal Order of the Rebel Forces*, run by Paula Truelove (of *Flip of a Coin* fame). Some friends and I decided to give her a little friendly fun and began sending Imperial transmissions to her Rebel Royalness. Someone suggested we should turn it all into an actual club, offering friendly competition to the Rebel "upstarts". So, laughing through it all, I typed up (on a *manual* typewriter) the first issue of *Executor Logs*, the newsletter of *The Supreme Order of the Imperial Forces*. It was 2 pages long. And it went out to 15 people. Boy, have we come a long way from such an amusing beginning!

By the way, Yvette, I mentioned last time how much I really wanted to visit Scotland, but Israel is another of my hopes to see some day. I especially hope to visit Haifa. I'm not really familiar with the geography of Israel. Do you live anywhere near there?

Louise Turner: I think you're right about Leia being able to be a better role if she'd been written by a woman. But I don't think that's any fault of George Lucas'. One of my favorite writers, Roger Zelazny, mentioned once that he knew his female characters were not as strong as his male characters, but that was because he didn't really understand women. I think that's the case in a lot of male writers. Then again, I've seen women write women far too strong. I don't like muscle bound macho woman any more than I like weak, "help me" females. (No, I'm not saying Leia is in this category -- far from it!) Actually, I feel Leia came as close to the mid-range as I've seen in most fiction.

I also didn't mean to be hard on science fiction. I was a science fiction fan long before fantasy. I had read the classics of Bradbury, Asimov, and others way before I discovered the wonders of Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, and Alan Garner. Then I discovered those, like Zelazny, who could mix the two. I like them all. But, if something is essentially of one form, I feel it suffers if you try to make it fit in the other form.

Barbara Anderson: Ah, gosh... Thanks for the praise! Yes, the Imperial Room was perfect, wasn't it? It had the "cantina" feel so much more than the Travelers Lounge. As far as I know, we'll have the same room next year.

There is just one thing I'd like to point out to everyone. There was an incident this year where two mundanes hung around the cantina for a while and then went off into the hotel. They told people they were with the "blaster battle group" and then would go up to women and touch them in very unwanted ways. A member of the con security

approached me about it (boy, was I surprised, not knowing anything about them), but we got lucky. One of our judges had seen the two and had foreseen a problem, approached the two in a friendly manner, asked if they'd like info on the club, and got their names and addresses! Then he kicked them out of the cantina, which is why they went off into the hotel and told people they were part of our group. Anyway, in order to avoid a similar problem in the future, we won't be able to let anyone into the Cantina without their MWC badge showing very prominently, so everyone should make sure their badges show.

Carolyn Golledge: Hi! Yes, I agree with you about the feeling that the rest of time has been a dream (or in some cases, a nightmare) while MWC is the only real time. It does feel as if you're picking up without skipping a beat.

I just loved your Major Calamity and Wanda's "bug", and Barbara Anderson's cantina girl, and all the other "local color" costumes that are turning up at the cantina. The more the merrier! After all, if it wasn't for the costumes, the Cantina would be just another room to meet in. By the way, next year, we're adding a masquerade contest to the Friday night dance/party. We'll have judges judging costumes throughout the first half of the dance. Then we'll have an intermission where the winners will be announced. *A note to everyone*: We are looking for donations for prizes for this, so if you have anything you feel you can part with, or if anyone wants to donate a copy of their premiering zine (I intend to throw in *Imperium* #5 and a membership to the club), let me know as soon as possible.

Judy Yuenger: Kudos to the STAR aWARdS! And now you're doing your own zine? Do you have a therapist lined up? Can't wait to see it!

Well, I guess I'd better cut this off now. There was just so much to comment on. Being this is only my second time to write in, I guess you can all tell I'm hooked!

FORCE SIGHT

Catherine Churko
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September 27, 1994

Salutations to everyone. Hope all is going along pretty well. Special thanks to all those flora-fans who shared in these pages their blossoms' bounty.

I ended up "burning the lightsaber at 3 ends", getting into some kind of unexpected emotional/spiritual/artistic and physical overload briefly in mid-July and again at the beginning of August. I've been home since in a healing process. So I ask anyone so inclined to wish good vibes

during this challenging time for me. Thank you.

My dad's doing okay. He got his first of (hopefully) two good reports. Thanks to all for good wishes.

Z.P.: Hi. Got my ish of AS#4. Some *nice* drawings, not read much yet except caught your doll story (p.2). *Don't apologize :-)* It was a great hoot when I badly *needed* laughter.

How about the young-at-heart for seeing the good/possibilities of it in people.

As to Ben/Yoda/Vader question -- this is what occurs to me. We know Yoda has a multiple-futures seeing Force-gift. Can Ben do this as well as Yoda? What if he can't (it's not mentioned)?

What if Yoda got some kind of glimpse(s), however confusing/fragmentary, that Vader *could* turn back? If so, at what point after Kenobi's "last" encounter with Anakin/Vader did that (Yoda's glimpses) happen? Was it once or a series over time? *As the twins grew up?* Or only after Luke survived to ask Ben to be his apprentice? Did they continue further as Luke advanced?

Was it possible for Yoda to be in contact with Ben Force-wise on rare occasions since he could cloak or micro-phase out Dagobah from the general universe's time/space structure from detection.

If in light of Ben's original "last" experiences with Anakin/Vader and able to track some of Vader's later destructive doings (some kind of radio/TV receiver of Imperial Broadcasting in Ben's hut), they converse and Yoda becomes convinced that Ben will *never* believe that Vader could turn back? Does he continue to tell Ben about his glimpses or never tell him anything about it?

If he (Yoda) specially later on sees Luke being a catalytic factor in Vader's return, does he tell Ben or let Luke be carved to his destiny by the Force? If I remember correctly, a Jedi can control the Force but *also* be controlled by it (or act on all people).

Now I'm not sure any of this accounts for why Yoda didn't tell Luke about his dad before Luke had to ask Yoda (I'm ambivalent about that all). Hey, if anyone is intrigued enough to think "story" -- please be my guest.

Carolyn Cooper: As you can see, I still have a big cudgel to whittle down. Thanks for your comments. We met briefly at my last MWC (1989) while I was hanging out with Melea and Mark Fisher.

Amanda: Thank you for your May note. A nice little boost while struggling with my artwork.

A. G.: Glad your area was not part of all that nasty CNN flood footage.

Marti: Hi. Congrats on your Star Award. (Psst -- I know how much it means to me.)

Maggie: Hi. Thanks for that well-detailed history of *Jundland Wastes*. It fills in a lot of older ebb and flow SW fan opinion history. Definitely ended up being a CMLer but I'll shiver appreciatively (crying out "*this cannot be*")

through a great Darkside story and I love good parodies of SW.

Speaking of which, I believe Judith Yuenger's "Smelly" could be the partial "spiritual heir" to "La Commode". And thanks, Judith, for your note.

Pat Nussman: Well, I enjoy your Rieekan. I'm pretty sure it was a story by you (first caught my attention through Wanda's illos) that brought Rieekan more to life. He's babysitting a young Leia and she's kidnapped.

I don't mind Luke in angst themes (kind of emotional hurt/comfort, heh heh), but geez, I want him to have a sense of humor, too!

Louise: Thanks for your theo-arch explanation. Ooo -- what're these ancient dwellings they just found up in your country's Northern Highlands? (Ancient enclaves, hey?)

Tim: Oh, make me look like a fool! Forgot about video toasters. Saw VT previews of *Babylon 5* effects at a DTP convention. But maybe the Crays *still* do something the VT's don't.

Yvette: Ah, er #1. (Missed it in my "read and run" style). Don't you think your #38 comment "pluralistic galaxy ... sentients ... million shapes" makes the *implication* of #37 lumping "smut, pornography and homosexuals" together rather incongruous? Put me in the offended column as well.

Ah, er #2. And *only* women in Africa live untame (I read untame as dangerous; Leia is living a dangerous life) lives? Not according to this semi-info/news-junkie domestic/international.

Two best laughs: Cheree's bone-dry comeback to Gerald's "why are these gazillion SW figures so rare?", and Barbara's pillow-sniffin' description. Oh -- Treema, do I hear a cartoon approaching?

Thanks to everyone for sharing their MWC stories. "Remember Alderaan!" (*magic*)

Out of space, not ideas. Best wishes, MTFBWY.

CON MODE

Brian Harris
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October 1, 1994

Okey-doke, how go things, everyone? Hope you're all doing well, wrapping up with the approach of my favorite season -- golden leaves, sweaters, and pigskin parties, you bet. "How 'bout them..." Well, never mind. I've been dealing with a job transfer, change of address, roommates, writer's block, and an anxiety-ridden dog named Geddy. Oy, the headaches! Summer's over, it's five in the morning, I'm working on my third pot of java, so I'm a bit

fuzzy.

Maggie Nowakowska: First of all, thank you for providing an overview of SW fandom's formative years/birth pangs. It's given me a new appreciation for those of you who were there in the beginning, speculating on the future of SW before even Lucas had set the story down in concrete, and coming to grips with what the public en masse saw as a revolutionary leap in storytelling, or mind candy for a jaded audience. Never mind the "just a movie" bit; after all, aren't most movers and shakers oblivious to their own genius?

I do think, however, that we fans who are either primarily JAM's or CML's tend to straddle the fence from time to time. Fact of life. Me, I want to enjoy myself with all the possibilities that the original concept opens up to me. On the other hand, sure, the movies changed my life, in some respects. I was pre-adolescent and was doomed to endure the likes of Donny and Marie, mood rings and *Happy Days* and then came SW. Before then, I wanted to be Spock, of all people. As much as anything else in my life, SW was at least partially responsible for awakening in me the necessity for an equilibrium between logic and humility.

Nora Mayers: Maybe Kenobi was *allowed* to go into exile. It seems likely, anyway. Regarding your comments to me last issue -- what, and relive the trauma of that unfortunate episode in my life? Allow me a tad bit of dignity!

Amanda Palumbo: Hey, thanks for the letters -- and the Bend 'Ems cartoons! "No, not Sansweet prunes!" Hope you're enjoying the tunes. Keep those students on their toes, and whenever possible, give 'em one-liners from the trilogy. Or, just for grins, have 'em transpose "Lapti Nek".

Sue Zahn: Good to see you here, m'friend. Well, to cut to the chase, I'd personally argue against the notion that Tim Zahn's trilogy was about technology taking precedence over the characters. That was not my impression at all. Rather, I think his reliance upon things military and pseudo-political made the characters seem dull and flat by *comparison*. The novels were just fine by me. Some male readers deplored the books, and some female readers loved them. *In general terms*, I might agree with your preference-by-gender hypothesis.

Marti Schuller: It was a-pleasure meeting you this past summer, and great fun chatting about the trilogy, fanfic, pro novels, and forcing me to endure the *SW Holiday Special*. Jeez, and I thought the campiness of *Reefer Madness* was apparent -- and that, from a sixty-year-old movie! As someone who's yet to get to a large gathering of fandom, now I've got some idea of what Con Mode is, from staying up talking, laughing and sharing ideas and opinions with you and Veronica 'til the small hours of the morning.

Barbara Anderson: Stop, please, stop! Your review of

Courtship had me in tears. No, the book didn't totally knock me out, either. It was cool, but ... Your two cents' worth concerning the powers of the Force also rang true with me. The Jedi are not omnipotent. Moving planets? I'll have to think about that one -- no.

Tim Blaes: I was a *Herculoids* fanatic when I was a kid. Gloop and Gleep were a trip, in particular. Those two must've been separated at birth from the Schmoo.

Veronica Wilson: It was wonderful to finally meet you and spend time together, though I wish circumstances had been better. I do hope things are working out, settling down, getting easier ... I'm sending out that positivity vibe 24-7. Oh, I finally found the notes we had taken regarding the Jedi history project, buried in a pile of laundry. Go figure.

Catherine Churko: Yeah, that Marvel SW story where Threepio puts himself in Valance's line of fire was a good one. You've got to imagine just how bitter the guy was, to begin with. I mean, Valance was *obsessed* with his dilemma, and with tracking down Luke. Too bad he's a pile of bones and steel plating at the bottom of Rubyflame Lake (and Vader damn near joined him!). Yeah, "Return of the Hunter" and "Dark Encounter" were two of my favorite stories from the Marvel series.

Well, gang, time to cut this short. Late enough as it is. I'll be kickin' new flava next time ... Take care, now.

MINOR CHARACTERS R000000LL!

Louise Turner
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September, 1994

Hello, all!

I hope everyone out there had a great summer! Unfortunately, I didn't get the job I'd been wanting, so I'm stuck in good ole Bridge of Weir for the time-being at least. I was disappointed, but it would have had disadvantages, and in the end I was lucky enough to waltz back into full-time employment almost immediately after my visit to Wales. It's not quite as much fun as the research job I'd been after, but it is archaeology! And it's better paid, and it's local, and that kind of job doesn't turn up too often, believe me! But life in the 9 to 5 regime is so hectic, especially when I have to go out and exercise Squire in the evenings. Around all that I have to fit my thesis and my 'zine activities, so it's all go!

Talking of 'zines, *Bad Feeling* will definitely be available by the time this letter is printed. It'll be \$25, so

please write to me for details, etc. I can wholeheartedly recommend it, and it's got some fine stories in it by Florian, Golledge, Schuller, etc. Try it and see! And I will be going ahead with another *Bad Feeling* for next year, and I'm also determined to do a Wedge 'zine for a tentative 1996 release, so please write with any queries, or submissions, etc.

And now to business...

Firstly, some words to Nora... I am keeping my fingers firmly crossed for poor Oz. I know what heatache is entailed in having to nursemaid injured horses, believe me! However, it is one thing to have to deal with ailments which come as part of an animal's natural aging process, as I have done, and another thing completely to have to cope with a young animal running into difficulties before it's even reached the prime of its life. I sincerely hope that your horsey gets over its troubles and returns to an active life once more.

Jacqueline Taero: Nice comment re: the Viceroy business. It is rather sinister, isn't it? Maybe Bail Organa was the man who betrayed the *Tantive IV*? Leia wasn't really his daughter, after all, and maybe he thought that framing the hot-headed little brat in the eyes of Darth Vader was the only way he could deflect the Empire's attention away from nonconformist Alderaan. That's a really mean idea, I know, and it's one I don't particularly like or ascribe to, and yet it has a certain warped logic to it... And hear, hear for your comments with regards to cynicism versus optimism, etc. I personally feel a little cheated if there isn't at least a little depth to a story and its characters, and I don't see why the opinions of others should deprive me of the chance of reading the stories that I like, namely those that develop and explore the characters in perhaps unexpected ways. If that requires moments of darkness and crisis to do so, then that's the way it is. Let's hope we can be left alone to write, edit and read what we want now, without any more interference from the Mind-Police...

And now I'll rush quickly onwards to Veronica Wilson and others, and the subject of Rebels and Imperials getting together in a neutral setting. I don't see them getting much opportunity to be amicable. The Imperial heartlands will be bombarded by propaganda, and I'm sure there'll be many Rebels who'll nurse long grudges against the Imperials for the losses of loved ones, etc. Since this is to all intents and purposes a Civil War, then I just don't think that neutrality will be easily achieved. As in every group, there'll be reasonable individuals who long for dialogue, and then there'll be warmongers who'll be saying that "the only good Rebel's a dead Rebel". I firmly believe that there'd be more Rebels who would possess a more magnanimous approach to their opponents. After all, I suppose they feel that they've been driven to war. The Imperials might treat them as dangerous cranks, or might

really resent them for threatening the status quo, or whatever. While others, of course, will be secretly wishing that they could trade their TIE in for an X-wing... But I really think that the Empire is run by instigating such scaremongering and bullyboy tactics that it would never be acceptable amongst the majority to show any kind of leniency towards the enemy. To spare so much as a few words to one of the opposition, even in a neutral setting, would I think, be considered treasonous by the Empire, and your average rank-and-file soldier would be too scared of being turned in as a traitor by his "friends".

Susan Zahn: I have to agree with you on the surprising differences of expectations between different genders of fen. In Britain, most fan organisations and 'zines are organised by male-dominated groups, and the contrast in publications is quite startling. Over here, the concentration is upon technology, over analyses of the movies and the sources in a more objective and less imaginative way (such as poring over the evolution of Stormtrooper rifles and equipment in the three movies and their means of construction) and also on the collection of memorabilia. It's improving now, because the boys really are trying to get to grips with producing fanfic. But again it's very much like reading a novelised wargame, rather than anything else. And if I may quickly offer an aside to Tim Blaes... I am sorry if I am one of those that helped put you off the Zahn things, but I really did not like them, not one jot! But I'm glad you found them enjoyable in the end! However, your tale does seem to lend some backup to Susan's observation. Though I'm sure there are just as many gals out there that really enjoyed the Zahn things. Maybe it's just that those who didn't are more accomplished at being loudmouths, or something! Incidentally, Susan, I once read this children's pony book, many moons ago. What does this have to do with me, I hear you ask? Well, there was a character in it called Mrs. Crosby, and she was always given the suffix (N.R.T.B.), namely, No Relation to Bing. Maybe we should start calling you Susan Zahn (N.R.T.T.), in the same vein... And you're another one whom I must applaud with regards to your "Freedom of Speech" spiel!

A.G. Steyn: All those lonely Rebels... Let's go enlist, A.G.! You can wrest your Corellian from Leia's grasp... Just leave me the flight crew, right? Actually, after spotting the woman in ROTJ (and she must have a real fun time in the showers when the Red Flight boys come back from patrol!) I could have *sworn* that I saw one or two Imperials with over-sized chests gathered in the guard of honour for Darthie. They were too blurred for me to confirm this incredible sighting, but it seemed quite possible. Has anyone else out there seen this? Or could they try and notice this next time around? These days, I really resent the underrepresentation of women in the Saga, though it is as much because the films are as much a good

representation of their time as much as anything else. However, I was really pleased to see the new series of Galaxy Cards. Not only did they feature more work by women artists, but they also paid more attention to women playing a more significant role than just that of scantily-clad heroine: funny how most of the first series cards of Leia really went overboard for that slave-girl outfit, isn't it? This time they featured a card of that great woman, that rolemodel extraordinaire, the one-and-only Lumiya (I want that outfit!) and also had a female Hoth trooper on a tauntaun. Unfortunately this lassie cannot have had much of an IQ: her hair was flapping about in the icy winds and so she was heading straight for a bad case of hypothermia or frostbite, but having a stupid female trooper is better than having no female trooper at all. It's a start!

I'm sure that most of those respectable Imperials have wives and families waiting anxiously back home for them. Since the main parallel with the Imperial Navy is a seagoing fleet here on Earth, then I believe it will be the same kind of set-up. As for the Rebels... Well, I think they'll have had to abandon normal family lives throughout the course of the war. I don't like the WEG scenario of all these Rebel families getting shipped off to backwater colonies and "safe havens". I think that would be even more dangerous. If the Imperials got a hold of one of these places, then they'd probably bring the whole Rebellion to its knees. No, I think either whole families will be willing to play their part, or that those left behind will do their best to blend into the background and try and pretend that they have nothing to do with their spouse's crazy political notions. This means that there'll be a lot of very frustrated people wandering around the Rebel bases...

Marti: I think I quoted nepotism in the SW universe as a means of trying to demonstrate just how like our own that universe is. That, I think, is why I like the universe so much. People are instantly recognisable, even though the technology is so different, and that smacks of plausibility. As for the goat, I'm afraid I'd rather be suffocated in the maw of a Tyrannosaur than shredded by a pack of voracious velociraptors! Not that I'm volunteering for either, mind. Leave them dinosaurs dead in the ground, boys! They're too much of a handful!

And, as an afterward... Where's Catriona, did I hear you ask? Didn't you know? I gobbled her up! I have devoured her creative powers like some hideous intellectual vampire who prowls the night (slurp!). No, seriously, I'm sure she'll be back -- eventually! Just don't hold your breath ...

Pat Nussman: Yeah, Minor Characters Roo-oo-lll! I have to admit that if someone asked me to list my top ten characters in the canon material, then I'd have Wedge, the Deck Officer, Captain Antilles (now deceased), Mon Mothma, Janson, and the woman pilot in the ROTJ briefing room jostling alongside Luke and Leia. Not to mention General Veers and Admiral Piett... I've even got some

sneaking respect for the Bearded Wonder (as they like to call him) namely General Madine! Every time you mention Rieekan, I get really bad guilt pangs now, because in my universe, he gets killed on Hoth! However, if my Rieekan hadn't bought it back on Hoth, Madine would still be pushing plastic battlecruisers across briefing room tables ...

Maggie Nowakowska: I'm a JAM-my! I'm a JAM-my! And I so *hate* to be pigeonholed and compartmentalised (sigh). I read your characterisation, and squirmed in uncomfortable recognition, especially when I saw how a certain wickedly-humoured editor had entitled my LoC... In reality, I think I started out as a CML type to begin with, but as I grew older, and wrote more, then the JAM-my tendencies started up in earnest! However, I do believe that being a JAM-my doesn't necessarily mean a frivolous attitude to the movies, because I do take my writing very seriously, even though it is just a fun diversion in my life. I do try and adhere to what I believe the Saga represents for me, even while I can realise that it is not the be-all-and-end-all of my life. Admittedly, I used the Universe as escapism when I was really bored at school, and now I'm happy with my life, I still like hanging around with my 'old friends' in that other galaxy. Perhaps the old loyalty is deeper than I like to pretend: witness my knee-jerk reaction to official SW material that I feel does not convey those qualities which I grew to love in the films. Therefore I don't think that JAM-ming need be precursive to torturing the connections with the canon to near breaking-point. In reality, if I wanted to write stuff that wasn't recognisably SW I'd invent my own fictional universe (and might get paid for it, too). But I get too much fun out of hanging around in George Lucas' backyard to do that, and writing within preset parameters is so much easier, too ... must admit, though, that my own interpretation of the universe does mean more to me now than the current official one does, precisely because it still represents the SW universe in the way I first grew to appreciate it.

I found your "Journey Through the Jundland Wastes" article most interesting, because being relatively new to fandom means that much of this history has been lost to me. One thing intrigued me, though, and that was the suggestion that Han Solo was an ideal Romantic Hero. Do you Americans have a different perception of what a Romantic hero should be like, because IMO, Han is just too *nice* to have that role! He does questionable things, yes, but his heart is most definitely in the right place, though he tries to pretend it isn't. To me, a Romantic Hero, should ideally be much more morally ambiguous, even dangerous. He should wander around exuding this aura which proclaims, "Oh, look at me. I'm just so-oo bad. There's no hope for me and you should never love me because I'm just so mean and broody." Now Han might like to *think* that he gives out these kinds of signals, but I

for one just don't think he gets away with it! He has "Mr. Nice Guy" written all over him! He is no Rochester and no Heathcliffe, or to compare contemporary science fiction, no N.G. Ramey (from C. J. Cherryh's "Rimrunners"). If someone asked me to quote some celluloid Romantic Heroes, then Han would not be one of them. Mad Max would fit the bill, or maybe David Bowie's demon prince in *Labyrinth*, or the character of Neville in Greenaway's *The Draughtsman's Contract*. And I'd be hard-pressed to find the like of those at all in the SW saga, though one is just screaming out to be developed. That is, of course Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader, and I just hope that the next movies will give this role sufficient characterisation, script and casting to enable a real Romantic Hero for the Nineties and beyond to develop. And I hope they don't go for Kenneth Branagh. I can just see it! Emma Thompson as Mrs. Skywalker, or even the young Mon Mothma. Eek! For where Kenneth goes, Emma never seems to be far behind...

Debbie Kittle: As you will be aware, I have read *Truce*, but nothing else as yet. Gerald told me that Wedge got the girl. He also told me that the lady in question was some kind of alien thing, and that she was blue, or something like that. Now, it may turn out that dear Gerald was winding up poor little *moi* (that would not surprise me), but, if not, then I'm surprised and disappointed at him (meaning Wedge, not Gerald!). Not only will decent members of society find these inter-species relationships a little risque, but there will also be one heuuva colour clash! Blue and orange??! Yeuch!

I hope your wolfie-friends are well. I prefer the Company of Wolves! (Ho-o-wll! Last night was a full moon!) Talking of "Company of Wolves", the Huntsman/Wolf was yet another ideal Romantic Hero for me, too ...

Mary Jo Fox: James' Wedge-tales sound fascinating. I love seeing other people's perceptions of young Wedgie. When and where is this coming out? And would he be willing to submit anything to *See You at the Rendezvous*, that forthcoming chance to give the Man in Orange a higher profile? (Hello, James, wherever you are!)

Gerald Crotty: Just one word: Phooey! Phooey to you, and phooey to Creepio! You and your Creepio fixation! I personally think that Creepio's Englishness is quite enough to warrant his miserable existence. Most of the cast are Scots, after all: Wedge, The Emperor, the Deck Officer, Miss Standby Ion Control, and so on. The SW universe was probably populated by Scots fleeing from the Clearances, and maybe that's why Creepio's treated as a second-class citizen! (And, after that pro-Scots tirade, I have to admit that I'm not even a Scot myself. Born here, perhaps, but actually Welsh by descent. However, I'm still a staunch Celt, so watch it, G.C.!)

Michelle Malkn: Hope you enjoyed your Magical

Mystery tour of the great south. Did you see West Kennet when you visited Avebury? Now that is the Neolithic monument to end all Neolithic monuments! If the tour-guides deprived you of that, then you've been cruelly treated!

And talking of monumental matters... TINA!!! How could you brutally impale that poor "rath" with tentpegs! You're lucky you didn't incur the 'rath' of the Ancestors, or at least the Irish authorities... I'd love to go see some Irish antiquities. Newgrange is supposedly wonderful, though it has been largely rebuilt now, and I'd love to go visit some southern Irish 'Wedge-tombs'. (I kid you not! When I first sat through a paper on the Beaker-Wedge culture, I could hardly keep a straight face! That boy gets everywhere...)

I'd better leave it at that, I think. Don't forget to check out *Bad Feeling*; you won't be disappointed! Just as well I never went for a job in advertising, isn't it?

'Bye for now!

BURNED FINGERS?

Carolyn Golledge
6 Burrawang Street
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Australia

September 18, 1994

G' day all!

Hope you had a good summer. We didn't have winter here! And no rain either! I swear I forgot what it is! Lucky for us we have an underground stream or I'd have no garden to take up all my time!

First I was very much impressed by the first installment in Maggie Nowakowska's SW fan history. Very well done! So much detail -- most of which I knew little about previously! I've never read any *Jundland Wastes* but now I feel the urge -- I'd especially like to look up all that discussion on "get stories"! It was fascinating to see the changing type of LOCs over the years. All this discussion on the whys and wherefores of plot and character development, etc., in fanlit seems to have gone by the wayside now for the most part. I wonder why. Too many writers with burned fingers/egos? Or less LoCers who are story writers and interested in the subject?

At any rate I feel Pat Nussman deserves some kind of award for her establishment of this early forum and her perseverance as mediator toward the more heated debates. The mention of the controversy over censorship is particularly pertinent to us at the moment with the same matter recurring regarding adult-rated or homoerotic stories. I was interested to see "a strong fannish tradition

that Han and Luke were more brothers than anything else and that to pair them sexually was to violate a very specific relationship developed in the movies." Further, mention of Gary Kurtz' response -- or lack thereof -- to created characters being paired homosexually (but not explicitly), pretty much sums up my feelings on the subject, *i.e.*, to write established characters in non-established relationships is to write about someone else entirely. A gay Han or Luke is not those of the movies. Therefore to me if such a story is labelled SW I feel cheated -- I'm not reading about the characters Lucas created and with whom I wanted to have more adventures via fanlit.

While I have hearty applause marks in the column by Louise Turner's comments on the censorship issue, I therefore also found myself in at least partial agreement with Barbara Anderson's comments. But not quite so much as to avoid Lucasfilm wrath, but rather to preserve the character roles established by him in their basic intent. Other issues are wide open for exploration -- *e.g.*, do any of the screen characters have prejudices against droids or clones, etc.?

Well, I'm not stating this at all clearly. All I'm trying to say is if a reader sets down money for a SW zine I would think they want to read the characters in character. As for explicit sexual content, as long as the zine is clearly labelled as adults only, what's the problem? Those who don't want to read it don't have to buy it. I do however feel that Lucas as the copyright owner has the right to guard against what he finds completely contrary to his original creations.

I think I'll leave that subject before I get myself into even deeper trouble!

Carolyn Cooper: Great comments on pirating. Agree Karen Allen's the best match for Indy.

Liz Sharpe: Hey, I hope you say "g'day mate" to poor ol' Leaky Pete occasionally so he doesn't forget his heritage! You too on the idea of Han smuggling water to Tatooine! I've already got an outline written for that one! The moisture farmers are not happy with our favorite smuggler!

Pat Grant/Nora Mayers: Count me in on the Ian Malcolm fanclub! Good point about the oddity of Kenobi being the one to escape the Jedi Purge. Maybe he was already in hiding because Darthie had a personal vendetta against him long before the official purge? Agree with you, Nora, about Ellen Randolph's SW trilogy. Great stuff and she made Han a Jedi plausible!

Z.P.: Agree with your defense of Luke on the rape charge. No way! As you say Lil seduced him, not the other way round.

Boy, you really had me stopping and thinking with your alternate SW Kenobi/Luke scene! It could have happened like that and, yes, it pays to remember Kenobi was setting Luke up for possible patricide. Maybe he

intended making sure it never came to that -- if so, no wonder his former pupil became Vader! Kenobi was far too sure of his ability to avert disaster.

As for spice smuggling/cigarettes. There's quite a smugglers' market here in contraceptives available in New Zealand and US but not here.

Jacqueline Taero: Re high-tech v. medievel. That's basically the theme of my novel (yes, I'm getting in a plug!). Except its steam-age technology versus medievel plus psychics similar to Force-Users. Its called *the Light-Weavers of Lellgha* and, if I don't get a publisher to read the thing soon, you'll all hear about it on the six o' clock news! You can't get a publisher to look at your manuscript without an agent, but you can't get an agent without having been previously published! AUGH! !

Ditto, re your problem with Luke's claims in *Jedi Search* (*i.e.*, that the New Republic can't survive without a Jedi Order.)

Love your sample tabloid headlines re Royal families of SW!

Susan Zahn: Right on with your summation of the feel of MediaWest! Ich muß also diese Deutsch mit sie sprechen, aber sehr schlecht! Können sie mir helfen? A firing squad for my version of the lingo I should think!

Very interested in your comments re the pro SW novels. It occurred to me that regarding characterization v. technical aspects, Zahn's novels were for me like ANH (more action-oriented plus new worlds to explore), Tyers was more like TESB (into character relationships/emotion/ and a very grim enemy!) and Wolverton's is sort of like ROTJ in the Ewoks aspect as far as fantasy elements taking us away from the SW universe to a degree.

Yes, folks, I've revised my earlier opinion on *Courtship*. That first opinion came after a skim read of a friend's copy -- I mostly read only the dialogue. Now having my own copy and reading the thing line by line is much more painful. However, it's still my second best after Tyers. I do like the final chapters.

I have an old Beta tape Pal format of that Making of the movies hosted by Carrie Fisher. Guess that's no help to you, huh? Speaking of Carrie, I wish I'd seen the interview A. G. Steyn mentioned with her on Jay Leno. She has such a great sense of humor.

Thanks for the free plug re my Boba Fett story, though it was more Solo than Luke he had that confrontation post-Sarlaac with! I sort of wish I could rewrite that thing now -- less trashing more character exploration! But I'm buried under in new story ideas at the moment as well as trying to write a romance novel! Yes, you have all been officially warned! I've transported "my" Han and Leia to Wales in the 13th Century! Solo is a smuggler captain on the Irish Sea! Threepio is his eunuch cook ... and everyone else is in there too ... heavily in disguise! If I ever get all the Welsh research finished plus figure how to get more hours

in every day I may get the bloody thing finished! Oh, and brace yourselves ... there is absolutely *no trashing* in the entire book! Well ... maybe one or two teeny tiny scratches!

Liz: So has my hypnotic programming of Leaky Pete got you over your fear of flying and on your way out here to visit me yet? That was my dastardly plan! Some good story ideas in your version of Kenobi's CPOV speech ... and I picture it like this sometimes to get me through that scene too! Maybe it really wasn't Ben at all! Maybe Yoda is not dead! Maybe the whole thing was hallucination! Nora did some interesting exploring in that area with her excellent *Pursuit of the Nashtah*.

Amen to you re droid bigotry, and also re the Ewoks ... knowingly eating/murdering people! Luke and Leia twins does not mean they can't be years apart. Had headlines in local paper re twins here who had been frozen and thawed years apart.

Pat Nussman: Hearty second to your comments re the wealth of excellent SW fiction appearing this year! Gonna make it awfully hard on the STAR AWARDS votes! Also the Fan Qs. And this year please, let's have more than a handful of voters! My list of favorite stories exactly follows your pick. Agree also with your summation of the flaws of *Jedi Search*.

Maggie N.: Excellent remarks re definition of profanity. I had one early story in which the editors changed "hell" and "damn" for really odd words that to my mind completely threw the reader off track and out of the SW universe. And as you say both words are used in the movies!

To me the most interesting comments in this issue are yours re the difference between ST and SW characters. I'd always wondered why I'd never been able to "get into" ST. I loved the SF aspects but just couldn't feel any interest in the characters. You have located the problem for me! I much prefer characters currently undergoing personality development which all three are in SW. Same for the two warring parties ... not straight black and white re morality.

Fan lit as therapy? Boy, I could really give myself a psyche check-up re all that trashing stuff, couldn't I? Suffice it to say, I think I've uncovered some of it, and thus now have almost no urge to trash anyone any longer! Unfortunately for those of you who don't like trashing, certain editors insist I keep including it! So, naah, naah, *it's not my fault!*

Well, maybe most interesting in issue should have gone to Maggie's categories of SW fans. I'm most probably a JAM ... but probably lean to CML when I'm composing a fan story.

Debbie Kittle: Good comment re inability to keep ex-Imps out of new government unless using ethnic cleansing. Story material there for sure!

Louise T: I shall make sure "our" Deck Officer gets

more mention in future stories!

Gerald C.: Very good summation of the problem with the Ewok battle scenes in ROTJ. Lack of plausibility indeed! Me too re Dagobah existing outside real time. I giggled over your comments re poor old Threepio!

Jennifer M.: How're those *Falcon* photos coming?

Barbara A.: I've used various forms of "kryptonite" to keep Luke's powers from totally upstaging my story lines! It really is hard to handle the boy! Ahem. In "Talisman" I had the entire planet working against him rule-wise! In regard to your listing of flowers in the garden -- I got more than you! Ta-da!

Tim B.: Thought your comments on the pro novels very interesting. We can be accused of sexism but there seems no denying that men don't seem to want or need heavy character/emotive stuff but prefer to get straight into the action. Interesting. Maybe this explains the lack of numbers of men involved in fan fiction ... we women are writing the type of story we prefer, *i.e.*, mostly heavily character oriented.

Yvette G.: Must applaud your summary of Leia's personality strengths. Well said! A hero indeed!

Tina B.: Your comments re your feelings pre and post MediaWest made me feel much better about my depleted budget!

Well, I'll finish up here before poor Cheree's fingers are permanently damaged. Thanks again to our esteemed editor for keeping us all communicating.

SPELL IT OUT

Ming Wathne
437 Via Roma
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August 30, 1994

Hey, Cheree -- Great to be back to SE. For once I seem to be ahead of the game instead of Oh! my gods I didn't get my LOC in. Real classy issue #39.

Enjoyed Maggie's history into *Jundland Wastes*. It just goes to show how much you both forget and remember over the years. It was a great time to be a fan, and, hey, people, it still is!!

Liked the pics and reports on MediaWest, and enjoyed the Bulletin Board, and found the Barroom Buddies drawing verrrry funny.

Carolyn Cooper: OK, lady, a good shake to you, and perhaps many of the other writers of LoCs to SE -- Quit-Quit with the FYL's and FACPOV, and any other short cuts. Sorry, but there are many, many new fans who have not the slightest idea of what you are talking about. At least

if you must do that -- spell out the things the first time you use them (it.) It is difficult enough to encourage new fans to try and LoC under ordinary circumstances. When they are faced with trying to figure out *what* you are talking about, it is almost impossible. Many new fans are intimidated by seeing the same names over, and over LoCed in the zines, and they are afraid to *try*, and the abbreviation only make it more difficult. OK, off my soap box. And other than that enjoyed your long LoC. I know the feelings start out small and end up with the Webster unabridged.

Nora Mayers: My gods, the woman is counting the days!!! I know how you feel, MediaWest comes and goes so fast! So many fans to meet, so little time.

I don't think it strange that Kenobi escaped the purge. After all, Vader himself explained that at that time Kenobi was a master. In the 19-20 years, Vader had grown in skill. When the purge started Anakin was only a highly gifted student. Brilliant but no master.

And I want to know also why being hit with a skillet hurt -- interesting situation.

Z.P.: OK, boxing gloves on, I still think neither Yoda, or Ben ever thought Luke would find out Vader was his father. Yoda even said so. Idealist You are -- you bet! One boy's feeling against the survival of a Universe. Not a happy thought. Smutzine -- I like that. And I still say keep them separate or you end up as so many other Universes have with only the smut type. I found that many authors will not write this, er, colorful material -- they don't want their material to appear in this type of zine. Regardless of how one feels about it personally, it is more practical to keep these types of zine separate.

Jacqueline Taero: The difficulty we run into with SW Royalty is we do not have a true idea of what the titles mean, what responsibilities are indicated. Are the titles inherited? Are they earned? Are they conferred for a particular purpose? Was Leia a Princess because she had to be in order to be a senator, or perhaps all Alderaani Senators had the title princess or prince bestowed on them. Perhaps Bail became the Viceroy because he became the Life Mate of the ruler of Alderaan. We can do what we want with the SW royals.

Now as for reading literature... As SW fans and zine writers and readers, we tend to enjoy reading, but just because you can do something, does not mean you enjoy it. I can both cook (and pretty good too) and sew -- and I detest both and will avoid them every chance I get. And the same goes with reading for some people.

Amanda Palumbo: Finger hopping through your letter, I came across the tidbit about droids. Think one of the problems we will be faced with is what is a droid. Is a self propelled vacuum cleaner a droid? Is it intelligent? When we have one H of a time just trying to categorize human intelligence, we will be having even more fun trying to

define droid intelligence.

Sue Zahn: Censorship -- Ah yes, let's not have that, but -- let's use a bit of common thought in what we put into our non slash zines. Let's just be fair and let people know what they are buying before they buy. After all, at an average of \$20.00 per, people have a right to know what they may be getting into before they invest.

A. G. Steyn: Really got a chuckle out of Cheree's little info to you about the Boba Fett getting out of the Sarlacc Pit. The amount of story material written by fans is staggering. The new Bibliography of Fan Zine stories is over 80 pages long and still growing. I lost actual count of the stories, but as a rough estimate or last count there were around 1200 to 2000 (yes, that is thousand) -- lots of interesting, strange or weird ideas explored.

Liz Sharpe: Maryland should be called Star Wars East -- seems there are more fans concentrated there than anywhere else in the world. Great to get a chance to visit once in a while. About the MediaWest hassle, well, my rather twisted sense of humor wanted to present this solution. Those that live the longest away from Media get first choice -- the closer you live the farther down the hotel list you get. An elegant solution, but somehow I never thought it would fly.

Marti Schuller: The bunch that backed the Star Awards (we loosely call ourselves the consortium) would like to add a costuming award to the zine awards. Both to promote costuming and recognize some of the people who have been doing such great work over the years. As you can imagine this promotes all types of problems, but we want this to be a SW function, as is the Star Awards, not Costume Guild or MediaWest program. Naturally we could have a problem with 70 Leias, 90 Lukes and any number of Hans, so we have to develop some type of guidelines. What do you fans think of the idea? Send a note and any ideas to either myself or Judith Yuenger so we can start work on this. After all, it took almost 2 years to develop the Star aWards concept. We would like to do this one a bit faster.

Han as a sexually-molested, alcoholic, schizophrenic -- etc. Come on now! Han apparently grew up in a very difficult situation and survived. And he survived in a profession that didn't allow for mistakes. You get the feeling that the Alliance as personified by both Leia and Luke would espouse the idea of lion and lamb lying down together. Now Han might think it is great idea, but he would always advise it only after the lion had eaten a full meal. Han is a realist.

Pat Nussman: I am sorry to say I agree with you about the professional SW stuff. Mostly I feel the writers never watched the movies. The very early Han books were quite good. Mostly in these later versions I feel the authors were writing about some other characters entirely.

I think that scribble pads of one sort or another will

always be around. Even the electronic note pads are a problem if they run out of power.

Maggie Nowakowska: Hi & Hi -- Great note on profanity. Let's just say try to keep it down to a reasonable level. As for Luke and Leia using off color language, profanity is a curious beast. My ever loving one, who is multi-lingual, never swears in English, but he has been known to blister the wallpaper in some of his other languages. Almost all persons use some type of profanity. Some of it is actually condoned (the Mormon list of accepted language to mule teams). Thinking back to a piece I once read, I remember a father saying that some of the words and expressions his son used in one language would never be accepted in English. They simply were not considered improper in one language and were completely acceptable in the others. Presupposing that SW has a universal language (standard), I would think that the profanity would be somewhat similar to that used by my Ever Loving for Luke and Leia. Han on the other hand might be a no holds barred depending on conditions.

As for the moral versus the unmoral (notice I do not say immoral), this is always going to be with us. Is it moral to let the life boat sink, when it could survive by tossing out a passenger? As for the discussion as to what SW is, have at it. We all have our own opinions. I can listen to others and either change my own or say OK that's your idea and go on with my own.

Debbie Kittle: Hi lady -- well, have you noticed that Han is missing from quite a bit of the SW Universe stuff. Take a real good look at the early ad material and things such as the plastic plates and cups. You are a gem when it comes to info on what is going on for sale or other products. By the time the info reaches us, it is outdated or they never get it in Santa Barbara.

Louise Turner: Agree with you about the SW official material. As for the idea that humanity can't exist without schisms, bottom line we are not ants. We do have differences in ideas of proper, improper, right and wrong. It is when these things get out of hand the difficulty arises. SW is great because we see good triumph over evil. Now to put a spanner in the works -- What is good? So here we are back to our moral, unmoral, immoral problems again. And thank you for the Wedge zine. Very nicely put together, both in writing and illos.

Gerald Crotty: Hope you are enjoying your award. It was well earned. Just a note to all artists. Beautiful compositional art will never reproduce as well in photocopying as it does in conventional printing. Standard printing is generally more expensive and so more and more zines are being produced by photocopying. Maybe not quite so pretty, but less expensive to buy. Just a reminder if you do art work. As for the Micro Machines, yep they are nice. I wonder how many of those will be dug up in back yards in the future. It is wonderful what we keep

unearthing from our own kids' childhood, and guess these are even smaller.

Jennifer Moore: Don't judge a book by its cover. Oh, yes, especially nowadays. My trouble with the Ewoks was the dichotomy they portrayed. They make friends with Leia, no holds barred, then they try to barbecue Han and company. Then they almost worship them. This definitely needed more clarification. Mary Jean Holmes did a nice job explaining this, but again for me it was a bit too mystical.

Brian Harris: That is really beautiful. Without all of us, there would be none of us. How true!

Barbara Anderson: Nearly had hysterics over your Luke sniffing pillows (Go find him Luke! Go find Han! Good boy). Talk about wild humor.

Carolyn Golledge: So many fun loving people in one place at one time. Hey, let's do it again. You know I have this wild idea -- let's put out a fanzine of Fan Pics. Let all the fans see what other fans look like if they can't get to MediaWest. I mean full size 8 x 10. Then we can all check the pic out before we come to Media so we can remember what the people looked like last time (OK, so everyone knows, I have no memory and use my name tag to know who I am) but it is a thought! (Ed: You should have been at MWC#6 when the theme was The Prisoner. No one had names -- only numbers. People spent the majority of the con surreptitiously peering at other people's chests to get their numbers and then rushing behind a potted plant or around a corner to consult the program book to find out who they were just talking to! I remember introducing myself to the same person three times before the name and face finally stuck in my scrambled brain!))

Tim Blaes: Well, we all have our likes and dislikes. Sorry I cannot agree with you about the pro stuff. I guess my problem is I have read too much fanfic which is much more superior.

Michelle Malkin: I always thought Han was made a general for a very practical reason. They could not think what else to do with him. It's sort of like, OK, we make him a general because that gives him a certain amount of rank so we can assign other troops to take his orders. This is a crazy assignment anyway and it needs a crazy approach. I think Lando was self explanatory. In a rebellion, rank would have to go to the people who could do the job, not only those who had certified credentials.

Veronica Wilson: Appreciate your idea that tough, gritty stories are not necessarily cynical. I have noticed that stories that come out in election years tend to reflect some of the cynicism in the culture at the time, particularly if they deal with political situations.

Yvette Ghilan: Your idea that some of the conversations would have seemed more realistic if dialog had not been cut is very plausible. All in all, given that in some cases the dialog was changed as the picture was shot,

it is remarkable that it came out so well.

Tina Bentrup: One thing you realize after going to Media more than once is that no two are ever alike, and each person gets different things from it. Some just go to visit with other friends, some go to all the panels, others the sales room or any of the other fun things that is going on. Like everything else in life, we tend to find what we want and search for.

Catherine Churko: Well late comers tend to forget that Lucas put a definite period to the more physical romantic and possible slash early on, by at least intimating law suits. At this time SW has become a commercial venture to ILM and I do not think he cares a bit what goes on in zine fandom. And we have to admit we are living in almost another generation with different ideas. Good, bad, it depends on your experiences and your age, and believe me that does make a difference.

OK, so I tried to make up in one letter what should have gone into 3, how is that for catching up!! Til next time, have a great time where ever you are.

SAVAGE ROMULAN DESIRE

Tim Blaes
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Carolyn Cooper: Well, I suppose one *possible* way Luke could develop would be as a Magnum P.I. type, but not as shell-shocked as Hawkeye Pierce. Could you elaborate on what exactly you mean?

Where exactly did this romance cover spoof by Melea Fisher appear? I've been gently nagging an artist I know to do an "hysterical romance" cover entitled "Savage Romulan Desire" and/or "Hellguard's Burning Passion" and then nag writers to do stories to go with them. I wonder what historical fiction will be written about Luke, Han and Leia two or three hundred years down the line? Would they even guess about Darth as dad? I bet there'd be plenty of "hysterical romances" and odd (possibly correct) theories written.

Jacqueline Taero: If Palpy took a home study course in the Force, then I'd like to get my mits on it. Then I'd become Tim the Terrible, Czar of North America! First, I'd kill all the lawyers. Then the game show hosts. NBC executives would have to write "We shouldn't have canceled *Star Trek*" one million times. And George Lucas would do the first *and* last trilogies. Can you say "command performance"?

Amanda Palumbo: I wonder when Leia came to terms with her grief over Alderaan's destructions? She puts up a stiff front, but sooner or later she'll see or hear something, and then it would all come out. It would have to come out.

Or it would just twist her up inside. The same goes for any other Alderaan survivor.

I've said before how much I think Linda Hamilton resembles Mark Hamill, enough to play Luke's mother. After seeing *12:01* for the second time on on FX, I'd like to nominate Helen Slater as a candidate to play the daughter of Luke or Leia and Han. If nothing else, Helen and Carrie have a similar voice.

Susan Zahn: If you've made a few generalizations regarding men in the fanzine field, you are not without *some* justification. But I don't think it's that cut and dried. I know one young lady who simply loves Zahn's books and is heavily into the RPG. For me, it's the whole thing. If you squeeze all the SF&F out of SW, you wouldn't have enough left for a bad soap opera. But without the characters, all we have are SF and interesting sets.

As I said in my last Loc, I liked Zahn's books and didn't feel that he neglected or misused the characters. But I liked *The Truce at Bakura* better.

Marti Schuller: I can think of quite a few people who deserve far worse than a drug death. Just watch the evening news and see if a few candidates come to mind. Re: closet relatives in our ancestry... In my family was a madam who all but publicly blackmailed the judge prosecuting her. When she died she left her considerable wealth to the Daughters of the American Revolution. I like ornery people. There is also someone who *might* have been a pirate under the employ of Queen Elizabeth I, but we can't be certain.

Pat Nussman: Kevin Anderson could use a lesson in manners. His responses to the question of why the Jedi are vital to the New Republic suggests to me that he (a) doesn't have an answer to that question, and (b) his ego is too brittle to admit it.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your retrospective of *Jundland Wastes* was eloquent and perceptive. If there were *any* doubts that you are the one to write our history it's gone now.

About those "angry young fans" from JW 5/6, I think they should be cut a little slack. I know from first-hand experience how hard it is to fit in and function among people I would have thought would welcome me without a background check. My memories of my first MWC are peppered with moments of extreme loneliness in between the excitement and wonder. At least part of it seemed to do with my being male; they didn't know what to make of me, what was I doing there? But that can't be all of it. I just didn't know what to do. Writing letters and buying zines alone just can't prepare you for fannish society.

I don't think I can call myself a JAM or a CML. I have no doubt that SW has changed my life, but I couldn't tell you how or even swear that it has been for the good. Anything that touches you, changes you. But I know it is a movie, made by all those people listed in the end credits,

for the purpose of making money. (For some reason an old *Saturday Night Live* skit comes to mind: "It's a floor wax and a desert topping!")

I have no doubt that one of fan lit's functions is as a form of therapy. The creatures of our Id dance and cavort among characters of contemporary fiction. *Slash* fiction, for example, has roots in female psychology that has *nothing* to do with male homosexuality. Perhaps the real question should be, does it work as therapy?

Louise Turner: If humanity didn't have schisms here and there, we'd get boring, real quick. I don't mind if we argue, as long as we don't fight.

I know they didn't allow tourists to visit Stonehenge, but not even archaeologists? By any chance have you heard about this nut out in the desert who reproduced Stonehenge using junked cars?

I know someone who probably would be glad to reproduce your zines here in the States cheaper than what it would take to send them airmail.

Gerald Crotty: The script in *The Art of Star Wars* described Leia as "about 16" and Luke more definitely as 18. There is plenty of wiggle room here, as how are "years" measured in this galactic society?

Who is Raymond Velasco? he asks casually.

Brian Harris: If you are going to be at MWC 15, then you might want to drop me a line. The only "stag" room at MWC may be short a member next year, and we could use you to help defray the room expenses. Wouldn't mind talking with you, either.

Re your and Cheree's comments about the Ewok TV movie, I still don't think they fit in with the movie continuity. Wicket and the rest of the Ewoks befriend humans in the TV movies, then want to eat them in *ROTJ*? Cindel's brother died in the second Ewok movie, so it takes some fast talking to make me believe he was Han. Besides, wouldn't he have recognized the Ewoks? Still, we could ignore some of these facts in our fan fiction. If Han were Cindel's brother, she would be about Luke's age, wouldn't she? "If you can marry my sister, I can marry yours."

Barbara Anderson: Actually, I can't remember any comment that came *directly* from George Lucas regarding fan fiction. The comments from his employees on this subject have been vague and sometimes contradictory. I suspect any zine discreet enough that LFL can deny knowledge of will not cause trouble.

As for "playing in George's universe", we have paid to do so, most of us repeatedly. Fanzines are almost pure audience reaction. Does George Lucas have the right to control how we respond, how we think about his movies? That's what trying to control fanzines amounts to.

On the subject of overuse of the Force by Jedi, my mind log-jams with trivia about quantum physics and chaos theory. Let's see if I can pound this mental mush into something intelligible. Overuse of the Force could

alter probability in a way that might backlash against the user. Excessive use of mind-control could -- how can I put this -- emotionally/mentally disorient the user. The act of seeing into the future could change the future you are seeing into, until you see only what you want to see, or only what you fear to see. And just what kind of person would use the Force to tie their shoelaces? Is the ability to sense and manipulate the Force really the most important thing to be a Jedi?

Carolyn Golledge: There are times when I wish I could go to a MWC type con four times a year, each on a different corner of the nation. There must be other pools of media fans I could splash around with. They can't all be centered around Michigan. But even if there were such cons, I probably couldn't afford to get to them.

Vonda McIntyre's first ST novel and her novelization of *The Wrath of Khan* are among the best Trek I've read. But her later works could best be described as indulgent. So I look forward to her first SW novel, *The Chrystal Star*, but hope she doesn't do so many of them that she becomes sloppy.

Looking at my own letter, I don't know who Neil *Taiwan* is, but he must be a cheap imitation of Neil *Gaiman*. Gaiman is on my wish list of people I'd like to see write pro SW novels, along with Diane Duane, Alan Moore, and Carrie Fisher. ((Ed: Sorry about that, Tim. I blame my scanner program and my missing it in proofing this issue.))

If there is an alternate universe where Luke and Leia were switched at birth, maybe Cindel occupies Han's place? And she has a really short co-pilot.

Michelle Malkin: I like sex, plot, and character shaken, not stirred. Mixing all three together into an entertaining story is not an easy thing to do. Have you by, any chance seen a copy of Phil Foglio's comic book, *XXXenophile*? The stories are explicit, but blended with genuine SF&F plots and, well, most of you know Foglio's sense of humor. An adult comic may not share all the requirements of an adult zine, but most of the problems, of story telling are the same.

Give Japanese animation another look. There's more variety than just hardware, long-haired men, or tentacles (I don't know where those dancing carrots and bunnies came from), and more of it is leaking into the video stores. Check out *Warriors of the Wind*; its heroine is very Jedi-like.

Yvette Ghilan: I picked up my copy of *SciFi Universe* after MWC. The SW articles were neat, but so was the rest of the mag. I especially liked the short article by a practicing dominatrix on the S&M aspects in *Planet of the Apes*. I enjoy *Starlog*, but I've been waiting for another genre mag with a *different* focus and attitude. *SciFi Universe* bears watching.

There was nothing in *Report from the Star Wars*

Generation that *Starlog* could not have published, with the possible exception of the "hard drive" C-3PO trading card. Lucasfilm should not be able to affect the publication of non-fiction articles, reviews, retrospectives, etc. If George Lucas sends out his legal Sithlords to bully and intimidate small publishers with the sheer mass of his organization, then it does not speak well of him.

Tina Bentrup: Shakespeare and Lucas have almost identical creative methods; take popular character types and plot elements, toss them into blender set on high, strain, served hot with a garnish of the finest production personnel and actors available. Lucas probably was Shakespeare in a past life.

I don't want to set the World on fire, I just want to light a flame in your heart...

TREK CON MEMORIES

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September 27, 1994

Hello, one and all! Goodness, I hadn't realized deadline was so close! "Eastern Enclavers": batten down the hatches! Meteorological Soothsayers of Doom are forecasting an even more accurate Hoth simulation. That @#\$&**! Taun-Taun I've been constructing is up and running, but it only walks in *reverse*!! Despite spousal detonation & abuse, I will be attending "Eclecticon". Do pray for me concerning MW!

Catherine Churko: Hello, I hope that the Light Side currently rules your house. I am addressing you first because your expressed concern regarding the tribal aspect of fandom mirrors others. You'd also requested historical anecdotes from active Trekdom survivors. I'd attended numerous cons, ran a garage zine before copiers were around, and networked on the scene in general. Hopefully, I can offer some enlightening memories re: 1970-1986.

1973 Int'l ST Con: "Kirk" fanatics vs "Spock"-obsessed. Logic or immed. blaster action held more merit? Old argument from series' 1st season. Langsam's *Spockmania* zine on scene still!

1974 Int'l ST Con: "Trekkers" vs "Trekies." This referred to kiddies toting phasers blasting everything in sight like the new ST cartoon on TV vs older, philosophically-correct fans. One particularly haughty soul espousing this view had an "I Grok Spock" pin on an "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations" (go figure) shirt.

1976 Int'l ST Con: Trekkers who enjoyed *Space: 1999* and *Lost in Space* reruns couldn't be real fans. New series

rumored, orig. cast iffy -- sparks flying!

1977 Int'l ST Con: *Star Wars* the toast of the con! Several fans, including myself, dressed in SW gear (I was a prune-danish coiffed Leia -- had the hair 4-it then). Fans in an uproar over weird rumor -- no TV series, movie in works with *Robert Redford* being cast as *Spock*! Slash and adult-themed zines well-established, adding more factions to the "what is canon?" debates and downright feuds. Somebody please call in a vet to admin. distemper & rabies shots to the Kirk and Spock fans, please.

Post Int'l Con demise from other cons, communiques, zine debates Circa Post 1979: ST:TMP -- brilliance or fiasco? Armed camps on both sides, little more (Jen Moore -- did this video cross your threshold? (g>). Fen truly outdid themselves in this round of hashslinging *on both sides!*

Starfleet, the "official" fan club started out as one of the early versions of RPG's, very positive, but then a few "heads" became swelled. Who remembers the Stillwell Fiasco? That degenerated into petty squabbling.

Fans from post-1972 still regarded as inferior species. Many fans made like that saddened creature from Dr. Suess' tale of the polluted planet, and finally bid adieu to a similar, once-beloved environment.

At its best, Trekdom actively embraced, and worked to bring about the ideals so shiningly presented in pre-computer FX series. Spaceflight, the medical field, engineering, charity, in general readjusting one's attitude when facing adversity to respond as a bit more compassionately across the board. Didn't always pan out, but we are, after all, 'only human'.

Two of my own fondest memories are of filksters meandering about all sorts of cons, even the Creation -- aack! which weren't, er -- as they are today, and spontaneously drawing a group into filkfests in hallways, Burger Kings, etc.

The second involves the gentlest, most brilliant of souls it has been my fortune to meet on a few occasions. Dear Isaac Asimov had somehow become involved with a group of people on one of the upper levels at the old Commodore Hotel in NYC at the '76 ST Con. It was approx 9 or 10 pm, and I recall hearing his voice, and went over to investigate. Fifty or so people sat on the floor inside a conference floor, furniture pushed back. There was a conversation going on -- everybody accorded this gentle soul the utmost respect, and I quietly sat in the back, hugging 14-yr old knees to a constricted chest. This man was speaking in an idealistic fashion, but in such a way as to fuel the wonder, and fire in my own to aid in bringing about the future I'd so desperately wished to believe possible. Perceptions were strained past the breaking point, never to be narrowed/closed again.

Security burst in some time later. *Dragging* Dr. Asimov, even as he kept insisting that he wasn't finished

yet, was having a lovely time and would they kindly let him go? They told him it was their job, and to take it up with the Con chairs. Isaac, I honor your memory, and will forever cherish it.

That same con had David Gerrold publicly, lovingly teasing him. Even in autographing con booklets, etc. Gerrold oft referred to Dr. Asimov as his mentor Sorry, I digress.

"Put 4 people in the same room, have them watch the same thing, and they'll leave with 4 vastly different opinions." So true, Bjo Trimble. Even the Christian Bible prophetically admonished us to remove the plank in our own eye before seeking splinters in others'.

No, I'm not garbed in bedsheet sporting frontal & posterior placard warning, "The End Is Near!" I do, however see history repeating itself, even by those who have lived through this scenario. Once again, it's happening in a backyard that is too near & dear. So, I ask/challenge *all* fans: *Who among us has the right to dictate what is canon, in the matter of POV?!*?

No, I'm not so naive to expect everybody to play nicely. I am asking also if it isn't possible to *debate* views, instead of "trashing"?

Let's make "Intolerance will not be Tolerated" a reality, not an empty cliche.

Okay, I'm descending my soap boooooooox! Jes' slipped and landed on my butt! Having abused my allocated time & space (sorry, Cheree) I offer Golden Twinkie salutes to all, and wish that the Light side of the Force be with everyone especially as we head into the holidays. For those who are sharing it with themselves, remember that if it's not by choice, you're still your own best friend!!! Send some food, toys, twinkies to those without, gang! *We're the lucky ones!!! Ciao!*

ABSURD!

Gerald Crotty
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September 19, 1994

Hello everyone,

First of all let me thank everyone who voted for me as best illo artist. I was surprised and really pleased to get the STAR aWARds.

What shall we discuss first? How about the Luke/Leia scene in ROTJ, there's been a lot of talk about that recently, so here are my opinions on it: I think it works beautifully for the first half of the scene, but as soon as Luke reveals that Leia is his sister the scene really gets into trouble.

Immediately after Leia realizes Luke is her brother, we should see her suddenly realize in horror that this means that Vader is her father too: "No, no, no!!!" etc.

The problem is that whereas Luke got all this news in sections and had time to digest it, Leia gets the whole lot in one go: "I'm your brother, he's your father, I'm off now and you'll probably never see me again." All this a few hours before the most critical battle they've ever fought! The scene gets into trouble because there's no way Leia can adequately react to all this information. I really think that Luke should have given her some of the news earlier in the picture, perhaps he could've given her the sibling news when he returned to the fleet. Alternatively, they could have established that Luke had told Leia about Vader being his father between the films.

Leia's reaction to all this news is a bit odd. Instead of going into shock she starts giving Luke advice on what he should do. It could be argued that this is her way of avoiding thinking about her own feelings, but I don't think so.

I'm sure that Lucas and Co. tried all the different ways of doing the scene but found that for various reasons this was the best solution, however it's not quite good enough.

Actually, it was me that started the debate on the *supreme intellect* (the recent debate anyway, I suppose it's been debated before). In SE 36, I quoted Marquand's interview from *Prevue* 52 where he mentions it.

Maggie Nowakowska: Loved your article on the *Jundland Wastes*. It's so important that we don't forget the history of SW fandom, and it's very useful to have an overview of a zine's progression. Was there really a section of fans who supported the Empire? Were they serious or were they just trying to provoke arguments?

Nice to see some comments and criticisms of the *Jedi Academy* novels.

Barbara Anderson: You made a good point about the use of spice which hadn't occurred to me: if it enables someone to read another's mind then why didn't the Empire use it on Leia? Anderson even referred to the fact that the Empire used spice for interrogation later in the novel (p.158). If there were some 'antidote' or resistance technique then he should have mentioned it. Anyway, in the radio series Vader tries to torture the information out of her, it doesn't sound like he used spice. My feeling about these spin-off novels is that they can do what they like (since they're not official SW history) but they mustn't conflict with events in the movies. But this spice business certainly seems to.

However, I would like to defend Anderson's books against some of the other criticisms:

Pat Nussman: You said that Luke was too grim, well this isn't really Anderson's fault since he's trying to fit in with the continuity. *Jedi Search* takes place shortly after "Dark Empire" in which Luke was much more grim. I do

think that Anderson has tried to bring him back to normality a bit. You also pointed out that there wasn't enough debate in the senate regarding Luke's ideas for a new Jedi order. Well at first I thought so too, but thinking about it I realized that the whole story is a 'debate' on the pros and cons of the Jedi and that is the SW style, to discuss things by telling a story rather than having people actually debating it.

I agree with you about the kids being 'exiled' during their formative years; it's absurd. But again I'm not sure if that's Anderson's fault or something to do with the continuity thing again.

I've read *Dark Apprentice* and I enjoyed it as much as the first one. I would say that Luke is a bit too passive regarding Kyp Durran, he doesn't do much to stop him playing with the dark side. But I liked the fast pace and clear multiple story lines. There's a lot of good stuff regarding Ackbar, in fact all the characters are given some time including Wedge who gets to fall in love! What do you think about that Louise?

Susan Zahn: Don't worry about identifying some differences between male and female fans in general, but as you say there are always exceptions. In my first letter in SE 34, I pointed out some of the apparent differences between U.S. and European fandom. I said that in the U.S., it's mostly female but over here it's about 75% male. The male fans are probably a bit more interested, than the women, in technical stuff and collecting. And the male fiction tends to be more action oriented. I prefer stories that have action *and* characterization like the movies. Are there any male and female writing pairs in fandom? Actually, I don't like the Zahn books, I only read the first one, too boring.

Louise Turner: What's all this talk about tolerance? What about those people who don't believe in tolerance? You're not being very tolerant toward them, are you? But seriously folks, I think it's good to argue or get passionate about your ideas. I don't think we should behave like we're walking on eggshells or become overly polite. Besides it's just as easy to be rude while being polite. I think we should argue as strongly as we like but keep in mind that we're only expressing our opinions and there's no need to get nasty or vindictive. I think a lot of the time problems arise from the *way* people say things. It's quite easy to sound like you're preaching when you don't mean to. I think it's important that you say what *you* think rather than telling others what *they* should think. Also we should be careful not to take offense easily. People don't always mean what they say literally. There might be an element of irony or sarcasm in their remarks which isn't always obvious in the printed word. Well, that's my opinion and since mine is the only opinion that counts I expect you all to take notice of it!

Liz Sharpe: Does the Emperor know about Yoda? Well,

according to the ROTJ novel he does. See p. 135. However, I suppose he doesn't know where to find him.

Marti Schuller: According to the new *Guide to the SW Universe*, Anakin/Vader is 55 as of ANH. That means he'll be 15 at the start of Episode I and he'll be at least 35 by the time he becomes Vader. I suppose the first trilogy will span at least 20 years if it ends with the birth of the twins. I must admit that I'd always assumed that Anakin was about Luke's age when he got turned.

Louise Turner (again): I don't think I agree that the rebellion was instigated by intellectuals and educated persons, although they're probably the sort to take credit since they're the ones who'll write the history books. I think all sorts of people would have stood up and said no in different circumstances, but who would unify them all? That would be an interesting story. Usually in these situations it's someone rather unlikely. I get this idea from what Leia says in the prologue of the SW novel: "They were in the wrong place at the wrong time, naturally they became heroes."

O.K., that's all for now.

THOUGHT TROVOKING

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September 25, 1994

Is it the end of September already??? I hope everyone's summer went well. We certainly had a heatwave, humidity-filled season here around D.C.! (Wasn't it great, Debbie?) Now on to my latest entry in the shortest letter sweepstakes.

Maggie: I enjoyed your analysis of JAMS vs. CMSL -- really thought provoking! Here's my credit's worth to add to this theory. I feel I'm a mixture of both types of fan. When a writer decides to use an alternate universe or even kill off one of the main characters, it really doesn't bother me -- as long as it's well written, and explained in a believable fashion! If a writer wants to explore the SW galaxy within the parameters established by George, I say, "Go for it and bring me a good story!" In sum, I respect George's creation highly; but the imp inside me says, "let me jump into that sandbox and play!" So I have no strong feelings either way -- all I say is "You got a good story? Bring it on!" I liked your theory about China too.

Veronica: Thanks for the encouragement! Somehow I'll plod on with my writing. Actually, the rest of the vacation wasn't too bad. I would've gotten a kick out of you guys stopping by, once I got over my bleary-eyed shock. It was nice being there with room service at my

beck and call and having a pile of 'zines to read. A perfect day! One of these days, I'll see the rest of Port Lansing. Good luck this semester!

Marti: Amen! I like your opinion about the cleaning droid! And your opinion about the Ewoks. I felt all the characters got short-changed, especially Lando and Chewie. I have one question for you, on a different subject, did you dislike Kevin Anderson's portrayal of Luke? I thought he did an OK job, but I've seen better in fan-fic. I'm curious about your other reasons why you disliked the book so. (Uh-oh, I hope the can of worms wasn't too big!) Take care and it was great seeing you at MWC!

Pat, Mary Jo and the other DS9 fans: What can I say? Great minds think alike (re: DS9 and SW comparison)! Seriously, did you folks hear about the changes for the show? They're going to have the crew on the starship, *Defiant*. Should prove interesting....

Debbie and fellow Dead Bothans: OK, Debbie, I'm throwing your question into the SE briar patch. Smack me if I phrase it wrong. We were discussing the novels and the question she asked was: Just because a certain plot device appears in a pro novel, are 'zine writers/readers a little biased against it? Would they rather see it in fan-fic? I'm referring to the scene in Anderson's third book where Luke communicates with the twins using the Force in a certain way (don't want to give away too much of the plot for those who haven't read it yet). What do you think, folks? It'll give us DB's something to argue about next time we meet. D.C. will never be the same. <G>

That's about it so take care, stay well, and I hope you all make it to Eclecticon! Fly casual and enjoy the fall.

NEW SW BOOKS

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Vienna, VA 22181

Y'all pick up *Tomart's Guide to Worldwide SW Collectibles* yet? I think it's one of those must-haves for fans, whether you collect or not. The amount of merchandise produced over 18 years is astounding. The pictures are wonderful, and the price values helpful. I'm also thrilled they've rereleased *Art of SW*, *TESB* and *ROTJ* and I'm looking forward to the *NPR* book.

It looks like *Sci-Fi Universe* will be having a regular SW column, complete with countdown. I did enjoy most of the SW material in the first issue, though I was miffed they gave *ROTJ* a 78% while they gave cheesy low budget movies better scores. Stupid fan boys. I thought their giggly, sexist review of *Logan's Run* proved that their brains are still in the 7th grade. Admittedly, the second

issue was an improvement. They've hit upon a good idea; let's hope they don't blow it. It looks like SW is getting more and more above ground press coverage. Just about every sci-fi/cover/ computer/etc. mag had SW stuff in it last summer. You just know something's up when the mainstream media starts paying attention.

Maggie: Your early history of SW fandom was interesting, particularly to one who was too young to have been involved at the time. The first thing that hit me was that there was anti-Leia sentiment from the very beginning. Not surprisingly, but unfortunate. Perhaps part of the problem is that, as somebody had mentioned, it's hard for a lot of people to identify with someone like her. I had borrowed a copy of the old zine *The Princess Tapes* (thanks, Debbie!) and there was an essay in it that compared Leia with heroines in classical and recent literature. She shares some characteristics with these other heroines, but in many ways, she goes against the norm. She isn't tragic, she isn't evil, and she doesn't use her sexuality to get her way or to maintain her power. Well, I could go on for pages on this matter, so let's move on.

What I really didn't understand was early (and current?) fandom's belief that SW is "dark" and "ambiguous". It's pretty clear to me who the good guys are and who the bad guys are. Those unsure on this need only listen to John Williams' leitmotif score. Sure, SW has it dark moments, but this is also a saga where squid-like alien creatures are named after a seafood delicacy! More on this later.

As for those ST fans who just couldn't appreciate SW, too bad for them. The problem wasn't that they couldn't deal with "ambiguity", it's that SW is about something different. Even though SW shares some of ST's '60's style optimism (*A New Hope*), SW is about returning to traditions and values that had been discounted or forgotten, to set right what had been wronged. ST presented a new society. Also, SW is only a few hours of celluloid, as opposed to several TV episodes.

Louise: What a weird career Wedge has had! I hope he does come over stateside to perform in that musical next year. Philadelphia's only 2 1/2 hours away. No, nothing is taken personally at all. You're opinionated, and so am I (can you tell?). Hey, anyone who likes Depeche Mode can't be all bad!

Yvette: I couldn't have said it better myself (your comments re Leia).

Amanda: Welcome to the jungle!

Brian: Hi!

Fellow Dead Bothans: In a year's time, we've turned into quite a contingent. Dealers at cons now shudder in fear when they see us stampeding toward them, demanding more SW stuff. The people at Another Universe know us by sight already. And who can forget the havoc we wreaked at Towson Mall back in March? Force knows what kind of insanity we'll inspire at Eclecticon. Now, if

we can only get Cheryl Pryor away from that store once in a while.

Cheryl: I miss Lord Vader's #1 groupie! It's been too long, girl.

Them novels: I loved *Champions of the Force* -- great action, excellent space battles, all in all a great conclusion to a fun, exciting series. I've enjoyed Anderson's novels the most thus far, and I'm eagerly awaiting *The Crystal Star*.

This is for the Book Haters, those who continue to trash every novel mercilessly in the pages of SE and elsewhere. While some criticisms are valid IMO, and while I admit there are hokey parts even in the best books, a lot of what I see is along the lines of "Han doesn't eat potato chips, he's a Doritos man!" It's as if some read the books not to enjoy them, but do just scan for things that are "wrong". I don't see this kind of harsh criticism leveled at *any* fan story, no matter how much of a stinker it might be. Would things be different if, say, *Jedi Search* was a zine story, and not a trade paperback?

My theory is that there is a belief that the fannish viewpoint is the only valid viewpoint when it comes to SW, and if someone else's ideas happen to deviate somewhat from the fannish approach to SW, then it's automatically contemptible. Perhaps some fans feel that these professional writers cannot be true SW fans themselves, as if getting a royalty check instead of a contributor's copy makes a real difference.

I don't think either pro or fan writers have a monopoly on good SW stories. Because of the difference in media and the fact that George isn't co-penning this stuff himself, it's impossible to write the perfect SW story. I'm not looking for perfection. After all, what can be as good as the movies? While I wouldn't give the novels, the comics, or whatever unqualified praise, I enjoy them because (a) they're fun (b) they take my mind off school, war, plague, etc., (c) it's something to hold me over until 1997. I read zines for the same reason. Thus, I say, "Keep 'em coming baby!"

And keep 'em coming they shall. Here's the release info for 1995-96ish:

Feb. 1995 -- *Ambush at Corellia* (part one of Roger Allen MacBride's "Corellian Trilogy", in paperback); April 1995 -- *Children of the Jedi* by Barbara Hambly (hardcover), paperback release of *Courtship of Princess Leia*; Jun. 1995 -- *Assault at Selonia* (part two of the Corellian Trilogy); Jul. 1995 -- *Tales From the Mos Eisley Cantina* anthology; Sept. 1996 -- *Showdown at Centerpoint* (part three of the Corellian Trilogy); Nov. 1995 -- paperback release of *The Crystal Star*, *The Illustrated SW Universe* featuring new artwork by Ralph McQuarrie; Jan. 1996 -- *Legacy of Doom*, hardcover by Margaret Weis.

And now for my final rant before I sign off. Okay, guys, perhaps I exaggerate a bit. I do that often to make a

point. It's a terrible habit. I have *not* read a story exactly like the one I described two issues back. I'm not telling people they should only write stories where our heroes play with puppies and butterflies either. I'm just as aware as anyone that this is a universe where even the good characters have flaws, maimings occur, people get shot to death, inefficient employees are strangled by their boss and so on. I understand all that mythic cycle stuff, and while it does involve adversity, it is also about rising above that adversity and becoming a better person for it. I *have* read stories where characters suffer needlessly, because there is no point to it other than just to have whoever suffer. I've also read a story or two where the characters have such a bleak and cynical outlook on life, the universe, and everything, I wondered if I was reading Sartre, not SW.

There always has been a shadow side to our favorite saga, and that is part of what gives it depth and sophistication. But even in its darkest moments, we don't see severed limbs for more than a second, and the destruction of Alderaan is far from blood, guts and gore. There's always that glimmer of hope. Maybe SW is a darker universe than the pure camp of sci-fi like *Lost In Space* or something, but if you want dark sci fi, check out *Alien* or *Bladerunner*. Even those paranoid sci fi flicks from the 1950's are a lot darker and grimmer than SW. Don't forget the humor, the joy, the triumph, even the silliness that are all part of SW too.

SW is FUN, isn't it?

ON A SOAPBOX

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Sorry that I have been so remiss in sending in stuff for SE but the deadline always seems to come when I'm up to my ears in half a dozen things.

I want to climb on a soapbox for just a minute. At this point in time, there seems to be a great many debates (or arguments, if you will) concerning the Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke (gads, I thought that had been killed years ago), the books and morality. There is absolutely nothing wrong with discussing those topics but in some cases boundaries have been overstepped when the discussion becomes an attack. We are all entitled to *our own opinions*. We are *not* entitled to try to force others to believe our opinion. Take the books for instance. I think the discussion (and I use this word heavily) is good. It helps us see what others think about the contents in the books and maybe give us some insights that we did not see. However, when people attack the books as being 'lousy',

'rotten' and 'against the canon' and expect everyone else to feel the same way about them, I want to throw up. I also resent being made to feel like an idiot or a moron if I do happen to like a particular book. Ask a roomful of SW fans which of the movies they liked the best and you will get different answers for different reasons. If we all liked the same things, it would indeed be a boring world. Personally, I would hate to see fandom torn into factions over such dumb things as mentioned above. I, personally, adhere to the 'Thumper' philosophy of life -- "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." I think that many fans read the books literally looking for the negative rather than the positive. I think that *positive* criticism is good. I don't want to hear someone say "that piece of artwork is plain trash". I'd much rather have another artist, like Wanda or Nancy, say "You need to study anatomy a little more, you aren't getting the hands quite right". I've heard concerns that people are worried that the stuff in the books will soon appear in fandom as canon. People, do you realize how much stuff appears in our fanzines that is (in the eyes of fandom) canon that *never* appeared in the movies. All I'm trying to say is that we need to learn tolerance of other's viewpoints and that those viewpoints *can* differ from our own. 'Nuff said.

Maggie: I really loved your article on the *Jundland Wastes*. I think such histories are good for fandom. Maybe if people read the problems that abounded then will help keep us from having those same problems. I also agree with your interpretation of the JAMs and CMLs. I think most fans are a combination of both. It's those that are diehards of one or the other, that scare me as they are usually the ones trying to get everyone to adhere to their philosophy.

Nora: Here's to A New Hope? The Arabian Strikes Back? Return of the Gelding? I darned near choked drinking soda when I read those! Hope that Oz is doing well.

Pat: I agree with you that there is a lot of *good* SW fiction that came out this year. It's really nice to see more SW zines premiering. I also agree with you about Han and Leia being really incredibly bad parents to allow their children to be exiled. Both Han and Leia are very opinionated and strong willed and I can't see them allowing this either.

Marti: Thanks for the kudos for the STAR aWARdS. I don't know what else I can do to encourage more people to vote. I welcome any suggestions. Most people seem to feel that if they haven't read every zine produced, they shouldn't vote. Wrong! Even if you've only read one story and liked it, you should vote for it! All the editors, authors, artists, etc. put an incredible amount of time and work into

their stuff and they deserve a little of your time and effort.

Jacqueline: I've always wondered how Leia could be a princess if her 'father', Bail Organa is a Viceroy. Your explanation that princes and princesses might be a credit to the dozen on Alderaan gave me a good laugh. You may well be right!

Louise: Now that I reread your letter to Z.P., I should have just copied it for the first part of this. Yes! Yours probably is better put than mine. I especially liked where you stated that "the Rebellion championed the cause of diversity and freedom". Yes, we do need to champion those causes in fandom as well. You said it all!

Dead Bothans: You guys just don't know how lucky you are to live in such close proximity of each other. It must be nice to be able to see each other more than just once a year. This year tho', I'll be going to Eclecticon so won't have to wait until May to see all you guys.

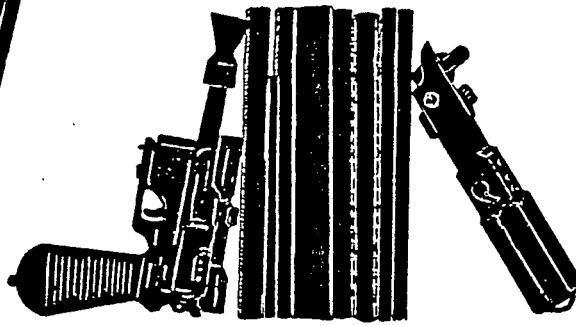
I'm sure that by now most of you know that in a moment of con frenzy or just plain total insanity, I decided to put out a fanzine at MW in '95. I must admit that I have been thrilled at the response to this zine. I have also gained a whole new appreciation for zine editors in general. As a fan, all I thought about was -- are the stories good and is the type readable? Believe me, folks, that is the tip of the iceberg. There is so much more that goes into doing a zine that most of us don't even know about. Things like: headers and footers or not; page margins; what do you do with all that white space; where do you put the page numbers; columns or not; etc. I could go on and on. Please the next time you hold a zine in your hand, think about all the hard work that went into it and thank the Force that there are folks out there who are just nuts enough to take on this chore for your reading pleasure.

On a sadder note, I had to have my Arabian gelding, Galamir, put to sleep. He was 32 years old and had a good life. He never knew abuse or starvation. He just got old and ill and I couldn't let him suffer even though making the decision to have him put to sleep was one of the hardest things that I've had to do. Also on the day "G" was put to sleep, my daughter miscarried the baby that she was expecting. All in all it wasn't a good day.

"Talking" via the electronic highway may soon be the norm rather than the unusual. I sure hope so. It's great to be able to get an answer to a question in a hurry and to be able to talk to friends more often. I'm glad, Cheree, that you are printing the internet addresses of fans.

Take care and try to keep warm (and I'm going to send all the snow we get to Debbie!!) Clear Skies.





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THE NEXUS CHRONICLES. A collection of all *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*-related fiction from the Nexus Cycle, exploring the development of the relationship between Chip Morton and Lynn Murtagh. Written by Kathryn Agel. \$10.00 in person, \$14.00 priority mail (insured), \$16.00 Canada (US funds only); \$19.00 UK. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE ORMAND FACTOR. Volume One of a two-volume post-ROTJ novel by Louise Turner, illustrated by Gerald Crotty. As recommended by Campbell and Dutech in SE #34! Join Wedge Antilles and Luke Skywalker as they struggle against the remnants of the Imperial forces in a race to discover the truth behind old spacer's rumors of an alien power source in the Outer Rim. For a detailed plot synopsis and costs, please send an SAE/International Reply Coupon to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Copies will be 180 pp. in length, laser-printed and photocopied, and spiral bound. Available from December 1993, with Volume 2 to follow early in 1994.

VOICES. The collected SW poetry of Yvette Ghilan. 44 poems in the voices of Luke, Leia, Han, Obi-Wan, Darth Vader, the Emperor and "X", Luke and Leia's mother. Computer printed, bound in cardboard covered in sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$15.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

WE GOT ONE! The first issue of our *Real Ghostbusters* zine includes fiction by Paulson, Nickell, Beetem, Dickerson, Morris, Van Fossen, and Riddle. Illustrations by Riddle, Howarth, and Van Fossen. Special art portfolio by Schreiber. Cover by Walsh. Laser printed, photocopied,

GBC bound. \$16.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$20.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WHO'S SCRUFFY LOOKIN'? is a new SW zine now looking for submissions. Stories, poetry and filks about Han Solo are being solicited. Stories may be set in any timeframe from pre-ANH to post-ROTJ. SASE for information or submissions guidelines to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ZINE SCENE. Back issues. Sample copies/back issues of Zine Scene are currently available from May 1992 and May 1993. \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for both. New issues, when available, are \$5.00 each. I am also accepting submissions of reviews (in any fandoms) and articles for publication in future issues. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. If ordering overseas, please send an SAE + 2 IRCs first in order to obtain your correct postage cost. Always include a SASE with inquiries. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #9. Now open for submissions. Material already accepted from Veronica Wilson, Wanda Lybarger and Donna Frayser. Probable publication date: MWC 1996. SASE for submission guidelines. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE #8. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out January 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

BELOW THE SURFACE #9. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out May 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #4 now open for submissions. SASE for detailed submission guidelines. Submission deadline: Oh, why not December 10, 1993? Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

ECHO THREE #2. Open for submissions until January 15, 1995. Toons, filks, fiction, art, poems sought. Keep it Luke and PG13. Humor encouraged. SASE or simply sub

Kym August, PO Box 1003, Long Beach, NY 11561, or
Amanda Palumbo, PO Box 397, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue. I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL! A new zine planning a 1995 MediaWest debut is looking for story submissions and artists willing to do some illustrations. We are basically a comedy/light hearted adventure zine (with a name like that what else could we be!!!) but we won't say no to any 'good' story even if it isn't a comedy. Please contact: Judith G. Yuenger, 901 Meadowcrest Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60525-2530 or Marti Schuller, 415 SE Annette, Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS! A new SW zine with a mid-Atlantic flavor (hopefully!) is now open for submissions. Looking for fiction, articles, poetry, filks, art and misc. items. G to R rating. No slash/same sex. Already featuring Schuller, Florian, Dutech, Wilson, Campbell and Turner, plus some excellent new talent! Art by Crotty, Florian. New writers and artists welcome! (Hello, Europe, are you there?) Catriona Campbell/Louise Turner c/o 19 Eastern Crescent, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire KA25 6JH, Scotland.

IMPERIUM #5 is now open for submissions of fiction, art, poetry and filks. For more information on guidelines and all that, SASE Arwen Rosenbaum, 605 West End Avenue, Apt. GF, New York, NY 10024-1608, or via e-mail to ARWENR@AOL.COM.

ONLY HOPE #2 is now accepting submissions of art, fiction, poetry and 'toons. Publication date set for July/Aug. '94. And we are looking for the unique, unusual, and imaginative! For submission guidelines, please contact Cheryl DeLuca, 4181 Rockwood Rd., Mississauga, Ont. Canada L4W 1L6, or Tammy Olsen, Box 153, Benton Road, North Haverhill, NH 03744. New writers and artists always welcome!

REMOTE CONTROL #4. Multi-media zine is now open for submissions of fiction, filks, poetry and artwork. Publication date is May 1994. SASE for more information

to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SCARECROW'S DREAM. Genzine dedicated to exploring the many characters played by Bob Dowdell. Now accepting submissions -- do you have a story from *Stoney Burke* that needs a home? How about a *240-Robert*, *The Initiation*, *Skin Deep* or *Terror in the Sky*? The only requirement is that the story center on the character Bob played in the movie or TV episode. No gratuitous sex and no "/" situations will be accepted. Anticipating publication in May 1994, in time for MWC 14. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SERRATED SEVEN #2. Now accepting submissions and deposits for this B7 genzine with a hurt/comfort slant. Issue #1 did not contain adult stories, but I would not be averse to expanding the format to include adult if the right stories come along. If interested in submitting, please SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

SNOWFIRE: Celebrating Princess Leia. Rally behind her Worship's cause and submit your stories, filks, art, cartoons, and hairstyling tips today! If not today, then sometime before January 1, 1995. Publication still set for May 1995. Everyone's submissions will get a fair shake. Strong writing skills, good artistic ability, and especially a positive attitude toward the princess (don't forget a sense of fun) are what really count. Contact: Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

SOUTHERN COMFORT #8.5. Now accepting submissions and deposits on this B7 adult zine. Submissions of a straight or slash nature, any characters are acceptable. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #10. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the B7 genzine. I'm already holding a few great submissions! If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #3. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the SW genzine. That's right! I'm reviving my very first zine. All characters and situations are welcome. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue,

Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE.
On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #2: B7 fandom's only hetero adult zine is now looking for contributions for its second issue. The only two guidelines are that stories must be straight and must include B7 characters. That's easy, isn't it? Tentative deadline for submissions is February 15, 1995 for a MediaWest (May '95) publication date. To submit or for further information, SASE Pat Nussman, 1612 Evergreen St., Sebring, FL 33870. If you're on the Internet, e-mail me at p.nussman@genie.geis.com.

TATOOINE DREAMS. New Luke zine planned for Spring 1994. Needs submissions. Keep it clean, please. For info, SASE Kymm August, 42 Heron St., Long Beach, NY 11561.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #4 is now open for submissions of Classic Trek pieces. Issue #5 is now open for submissions of TNG and DS9 material. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WE GOT ANOTHER ONE! Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork for second issue of *Real Ghostbusters* zine. Action-adventure as well as relationship pieces are suitable, but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

YEARS OF FIELDWORK. Now taking reservations (\$5.00 plus SASE) for this collection of Indiana Jones fiction from the "O.S.S." series by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. Anticipated publication date is early winter 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

OTHER WORLDS

ART PRINTS -- Full color prints. Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. Luke by Melanie Guttierrez. Vader by Nancy Stasulis, bareback Han by Dianne Smith. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CLEARANCE SALE: Luke & Leia t-shirts. Black ink on cream, yellow or pale blue shirts. L, XL and XXL sizes. Please state first and second color preferences. Wolf t-shirt. White ink on black shirts. M-XXL. SE t-shirt. Only one left: Large, navy with design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$5.00 (\$6.00 XXL sizes). Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES needs donations of out of print zines -- all fandoms. For info, SASE Ming Wathne, Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

LOOKING for Hamill with wife and kids on Howard Stern tape and Hamill on QVC. Also in search of Ackbar and Red Guard Bend-Ems to play with others in my demented kitchen. Please contact Amanda Palumbo, PO Box 397, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537. Thanks!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pat Grant
2343 North Cedar St., Apt. A
Holt, MI 48842

Brian Harris
2730 Fyke Rd. #219
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

D. C. Black
P. O. Box 952216
Lake Mary, FL 32795-2216

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE
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Garland, TX 75043

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